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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SOUTH AMERICAN SITUATION AIRED AT HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING

PA131753 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 13 Aug 80

[Text] At the meeting taking place in Quito to form the human rights association, it was called for the implementation of specific actions to defend democracy and to turn it into an useful tool for participation.

At the meeting, the need for reducing expenditures for arms purchases, condoning national security laws and abiding by the principles established in the reforms of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission was noted.

Jaime Paz, vice president-elect of Bolivia, who was not able to assume his post because of the military coup in his country, charged at the outset of the meeting that Bolivia had received the first stroke in the situation that is being created in the continent's southern region.

Radomiro Tomic, former Chilean presidential candidate and leader of Chile's Christian Democracy, speaking on the human rights subject at the meeting, noted that representative democracies should be replaced by democracies of participation. According to him, capitalist structures are not compatible with the goals of a democratic society, with human rights or with the production needs of the people.

Hector Campora, former constitutional president of Argentina, requested the government in his country to guarantee the circulation in Argentina of an OAS Human Rights Commission report. He said that the news media should contribute to this endeavor.

Armando Villanueva, leader of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance and former presidential candidate of Peru, noted that more money should be spent to help the masses instead of spending it on arms.

Msgr Leonidas Bolanos, bishop of Riobamba, called for the condemnation of national security laws that go against human rights, turn the state into a super-god and disregard the importance of citizens.

Bolanos noted his aspirations for social justice and ratified his trust that with a new Christian doctrine it will be possible to lead the people along a path to recovery and progress.

CARIBBEAN PROMISED AID BY IADB

FL110955 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Aug 80 p 9

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 5 Aug (CANA)--Latin American and Caribbean states are in line for several billion dollars of Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) assistance for the next two years, an IADB statement has said here.

The statement issued by the bank's local office followed Sunday's announcement that a US\$9.75 billion fund was coming into effect, 50 per cent of which would be used to finance programmes in the bank's less developed member countries.

The proposed lending programmes will be oriented towards benefitting the lower income groups in Latin American countries primarily through projects which stress the creation of productive employment and promote good production, the release said.

The bank's fifth replenishment, aided by an increase of US\$8 billion in the capital stock of the bank and US\$1.75 billion in its fund for special operations, is to enable the IDB to help meet Latin America's requirements between 1979 and 1982, the release said.

"The bank's board of executive directors Sunday determined that favourable votes have been received from member countries representing more than the 500,000 shares of capital needed to bring the US\$8 billion capital increase into effect and that new contributions pledged to the fund for special operations exceed the US\$1.315 billion required to implement the US\$1.75 billion increase in that fund," the release added.

According to the statement "the challenge facing the bank for its next programme cycle lies in developing a lending programme that taking into account the borrowing countries priorities and their development efforts, simultaneously maximises its impact on employment and hence on poverty and on the main bottlenecks limiting the economic development of the region, namely the energy and external sector."

The rural sector is to receive 30 to 35 per cent in development capital, with the remaining 10 to 15 per cent to urban development.

About 20 to 25 per cent of the lending programme would be devoted to the financing of energy projects, including conventional and non-conventional sources of energy.

Between 20 and 25 per cent of the multi-billion dollar fund would be assigned to finance projects which, by directly increasing exports or substituting imports, would reduce the relative burden of servicing external debt.

"The remaining 5-10 per cent would be devoted to projects in other sectors of activities which were considered essential for eliminating existing bottlenecks in specific countries," the release said.

It noted that from the beginning of its operation 20 years ago, the IADB has shown "special concern for spreading the benefits as broadly as possible, especially to the less favoured sectors in borrowing countries."

It said this concern had prompted the bank to play pioneer role among international agencies in promoting the channelling of international financing to social sector for the direct benefit of the lowest-income groups.

Serious concerns about the lengthy delay in a final endorsement of the funds were voiced earlier this week by a number of representatives of the bank's member-governments during a special consultative session at its Washington headquarters.

The fund was negotiated and agreed to by the bank's board of governors in late 1978 and by most of its member-states in 1979, but the increase could not go into effect without United States participation, which the U.S. Congress authorised last June.

"When authorising United States participation, however, the U.S. Congress provided only 90 per cent of the funding authority required to cover the United States' share of the fifth replenishment," the IADB release explained.

It said delayed U.S. approval of the 10 per cent increase had raised questions about the bank's ability to fulfill its projected lending programme to the Latin American region for 1979-1982, and was one of the issues raised at last month's consultative meeting by its board of executive directors.

CSO: 3020

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ANTIGUA-BARBUDA RELATIONS--St. Johns, Antigua, Thursday, CANA--A major conference between British and Antiguan Government officials and local opposition parliamentarians ended yesterday, apparently without making head way towards a solution to worsening relations between this British associated state and its neighbouring ward island, Barbuda. The conference was organised by Premier Vere Bird in a move to have the problems contributing to poor relations including a Barbudian threat of secession tackled. But members of the Barbudan local government council boycotted the one-day conference, saying that they had been given late notice, and that, anyway, they were against Premier Bird acting as chairman. The conference took place against the backdrop of Antigua's plans for independence from Britain, and a threat by the Barbudan representative in the parliament here, Eric Burton, to ensure that when this happens Barbuda goes its own way. The Antiguan Government had a 16-member delegation at the conference, the British High Commissioner to the eastern Caribbean, Stanley Arthur, represented London, with the Antigua-based representative to Antigua and the Leeward Islands, Ina Thow, as an observer. The opposition Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) members said they could not make a meaningful contribution to the debate because the main party was missing and the conference did not have an agenda around which any substantial discussion could take place. [Excerpt] [FL061955 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Aug 80 p 8]

CUBAN CEMENT TO BARBADOS--A shipment of 146,000 bags of cement has arrived in Barbados from Cuba, easing a shortage which forced the closure of some concrete products companies and threatened two major government projects. [Text] [FL062020 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Aug 80 p 1]

CSO: 3020

BRIEFS

POLICE BUILDINGS SHOT AT--Santa Fe, 6 Aug (NA)--Two police headquarters have reportedly been shot at during the past few days by alleged subversive groups, but the authorities have kept these incidents secret and have refrained from confirming or denying them, according to the local daily EL LITORAL today. The newspaper, which bases its statements on information released by confidential sources, states that the attacks took place on the police precinct buildings of Alto Verde and Villa Yapeyu districts in the suburban area of this provincial capital. EL LITORAL reported that the attackers travel in pickups, and that it is unknown whether there were any victims as a result of the attacks. The newspaper finally stated that it has learned that two schools have had to be evacuated in the past few days due to phone calls warning of alleged bombs placed in the buildings. The two cases were false alarms. [Text] [PY071951 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 0200 GMT 7 Aug 80]

BOMB EXPLODES NEAR SYNAGOGUE--Buenos Aires, 7 Aug (NA)--A pickup truck filled with explosives blew up early this morning in front of a synagogue located in the Parque de los Patricios neighborhood. According to police sources the explosion caused damage but no casualties. The attack was perpetrated at 0100 today. During the day there was also a bomb attack against a residence in Resistencia, Chaco, and an attack and fire at a Catholic Church in San Miguel in Tucuman. The explosion of the pickup truck yesterday afternoon took place in front of the synagogue located at the intersection of 24 Noviembre and Constitucion Streets. [Excerpt] [PY090135 Buenos Aires Noticias Argentinas in Spanish 1255 GMT 7 Aug 80]

BRITISH ATHLETES DETAINED--Buenos Aires, 11 Aug (AFP)--It was learned here today from judicial sources that in compliance with the Argentine Penal Code the four British rugby players who were detained today because they stole an Argentine flag in Buenos Aires may be punished with from 3 to 10 years in prison. (Francis Wilson), (William Anderson), (David Irwin) and (James Palmer), who are members of the Penguins team, which is currently touring Argentina, are charged with having stolen a

flag from a public building yesterday evening. The police, who were tipped off by a witness, found the flag in one of the boys' rooms. The British citizens may be sentenced to from 1 to 4 years of prison for having insulted a national symbol. Moreover, they will have to answer to the charge of theft. Argentine Justice does not joke regarding patriotic feelings: a few months ago a man was sentenced to 1 year in prison for not standing up during the playing of the national anthem. Moreover, all the players of the Penguins team, among whom are several international British players, were requested to leave the hotel where they were staying in Buenos Aires because of their indecent conduct. [Text] [PY120401 Paris AFP in Spanish 0021 GMT 12 Aug 80]

SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR--Buenos Aires, 11 Aug (TELAM)--The Argentine Government has approved the appointment of Francis David Tothill as the new South African ambassador to Argentina. [PY121845 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0315 GMT 11 Aug 80]

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CLOSURE--(NA)--The Murillo financial firm has had its permit withdrawn by the Central Bank and its directors are being charged with economic subversion, the Central Bank said yesterday. Murillo was the third largest financial firm in Argentina according to the Central Bank's ranking for March, with deposits totalling 26,214 million pesos and loans totalling 30,916 million. [Text] [PY121845 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 12 Aug 80 p 11]

FRENCH AGRICULTURE SECRETARY--Buenos Aires, 7 Aug (TELAM)--Jacques Fouchier, French secretary of state to the Ministry of Agriculture, has arrived in Argentina to attend the 30th livestock, agriculture and industry international fair. He will meet with Argentine officials to discuss the sale of French high technology agricultural equipment to try to even the trade balance between the two countries. [PY121845 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Aug 80]

RIVER PLATE BASIN COMMISSION--Buenos Aires, 7 Aug (TELAM)--Brig Gen Jose Luis Sexton (ret) has assumed the position of president of the River Plate Basin National Commission. [PY121845 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1608 GMT 7 Aug 80]

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

CARICOM LEGISLATION DISAPPROVAL--Already, the Ministry of the Attorney General in Barbados has had to prepare its own draft legislation in the areas of a shipping and companies acts, after the CARICOM drafts proved unacceptable. Attorney-General Mr. Henry Forde said yesterday that the Barbados Government was hoping to persuade CARICOM to look at the draft legislation now prepared by Barbados for a new companies act and use this as draft legislation for the region. The Barbados shipping bill has already been submitted to CARICOM as a draft for regional use and according to Mr. Forde, it looks as though it will be substantially adopted. Mr. Forde was responding in the House of Assembly yesterday to calls from fellow MPs David Simmons and Ezra Alleyne for information relating to a new companies act. He said that a draft bill being prepared by the attorney general's office was expected to be laid before the House of Assembly as soon as possible after the summer recess. The first draft of the bill had already been seen and discussed by a broadly based committee, including four members of the bar association, he said. Fifty copies have also been circulated to the bar association. After consideration by the committee, a second draft of the bill was prepared by Mr. Justice Denys Williams, Mr. Forde said, and this is now being typed. The attorney general explained that Barbados had found it difficult to support the draft bill prepared by CARICOM because the language for the most part was archaic, among other things. He said that when the Barbados bill had been prepared, the need to harmonise in the region had been taken into consideration. The attorney general is recommending that the bill go before a joint select committee of the house when it reaches this chamber. [Text] [FL111005 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 6 Aug 80 p 2]

CSO: 3020

BOLIVIA

GUELLER GRANTS EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AFTER COUP

Santiago LA TERCERA in Spanish 3 Aug 80 pp 12-13

[Interview with Lidia Gueller in La Paz by Ruben Adrian Valenzuela;
date not given]

[Text] "By saying that he placed a gun at my chest, I am putting it
mildly..."

She was silent for a minute. She crossed her hands on her lap and
lowered her head as though she were meditating. Her mature, almost aging,
face showed no sign of emotion and I was unable to penetrate her thoughts.

[Question] But was the situation serious enough to make you sign the
resignation?

[Answer] Ha!

[Question] But answer me. Don't laugh.

[Answer] I am not laughing. The fact of the matter is that your
questions have no answer. What do I gain from telling you something
that cannot be explained?

[Question] What do you mean, it cannot be explained? I believe that
you are the only person who can tell us what happened. Why has General
Garcia Meza said that you turned over the presidency to the armed forces?
Why do the people believe that Bolivia was without a president from
1000 hours to 2300 hours?

[Answer] You believe that the people believe that?

[Question] That is what they have been led to believe...

[Answer] Why don't you ask Garcia Meza? Ask him who drafted my
"resignation" (put that between quotes). Let him explain why if the
coup started at 1000 hours my resignation was not made public until
2300 hours on the 17th and then again in the early morning hours of the 18th.

Lidia Gueiler, the woman who governed Bolivia for 8 months, gave the people democratic and secret elections, said she would leave politics after she handed the reigns of power to the candidate chosen by the people and the Senate to occupy the Quemado Palace, became spirited for a few seconds but then fell silent.

[Answer] I cannot say too much...You are interviewing me and I cannot grant you one...I am only speaking with a friend...

It is difficult for me to convince her. I must swear that I will not publish anything she tells me until she is out of danger, outside the country and (what is most important) outside the Apostolic Nuncio's residence in La Paz.

She is wearing a heavy skirt, like a plaid, and a pink cashmere or alpaca sweater. Around her neck hangs a delicate gold chain with a precious stone on the end--or was it a crucifix?--which she toys with nervously from time to time.

I asked her to authorize her secretary, who is accompanying her, to take our picture, just one, so that I can prove that I met with her and that, as she repeatedly reminds me, I have been the only reporter--"the only one in the world"--to interview her since she was overthrown.

[Answer] And what will happen if you deceive me, if you go back on your word and publish everything before I leave Bolivia?

[Question] What reason would I have to deceive you if as you say no one has seen you (for an interview, of course) since you were overthrown? What I must be able to do is to prove to the public, to my bosses that I actually spoke with you...

I have almost convinced her. We have been talking for some time now and the cordial tone, a tone of honesty and friendship, is beginning to convince her that I truly will keep the interview a secret until she is out of danger and together with her loved ones. Suddenly, the Apostolic Nuncio appears on the stairs leading from the second floor. He walks over to the room we are sitting in and, without any pretense, sticks his head through the doorway and asks: "Hello, how are you?"

Lidia Gueiler responds by shaking her head that everything is all right, but the priest does not leave the doorway. Instead he turns his gaze on me. I stand up and extend my hand in greeting. This helps him to make up his mind and he finally enters the room.

"Are you the Chilean reporter who arrived this morning?"

"Yes, father...but I was informed that I was allowed to enter as a friend and that I will not be able to publish anything she tells me until she leaves the country..."

The priest looks at the coffee table. My notes are lying on the table. He goes over them avidly and without pretense. His gaze is harsh and penetrating and it is obvious that he is not pleased with my presence.

"None of this should be made public now...If you publish any of this, it will be very harmful to us...It will be more harmful to her than to us, but it will hurt all of us..."

"No, father," I repeat, "I will not publish anything until she is out of here. I have already promised that."

"You reporters...I don't know, but I am warning you about the damage that it will cause..."

"Excuse me, father. Which it might cause (I correct him), but I will not do it."

He leaves without saying goodbye. He has not displayed any sympathy or any of that much talked about Christian charity. It is obvious that he does not believe me and he does not hide the fact that he is disturbed. It could be said that he is afraid, very much afraid...

Lidia Gueller is chagrined. She has not said a single word all this time and as soon as the priest leaves she gestures that she will not allow the photograph to be taken.

[Answer] He (the Papal Nuncio) is right. If you go back on your word, it would be very damaging.

[Question] I am much more interested in not failing you than in not failing him. That is why I am not concerned. I wanted the photograph so that it could not be said later that I was not here with you.

[Answer] I am not Garcia Meza. I will never disavow or deny what I have told you. I only ask that you not fail me. In any case, one day we will meet in Santiago and if you fail me now...

[Question] You would go directly to Santiago from La Paz?

[Answer] I will go later. First I will go to Miami and from there to Paris. My daughter and my nephew are there. It will be some time before I reach Santiago, but I will get there.

I ask her to write a message on a blank sheet of paper with a LA TERCERA letterhead on it. I maintain that I need to show the public that I was with her and I suggest that she send a greeting or whatever she would like. With a gesture that reflects that she was once a president she rolls up the sheet of paper and with the haughty gesture of a great lady she hands it to her secretary in a sweeping motion.

[Answer] I will not do it now...I will save this sheet with the letter-head until I am in Paris. I will send you a letter from there which you can publish.

There is silence once more. The modest room is in semi-darkness because no one has turned on the chandelier hanging overhead. The venetian blinds are turned in such a way that only a weak light filters in from the garden.

[Answer] There was no reason for this coup, she says suddenly. There was nothing to justify it at this time. Neither the electoral fraud they talk about nor the chaos which did not exist...They could have waited to see what Siles Zuazo would do...Three or four months would have been enough. Perhaps the opposition to the UDP [People's Democratic Union] government would have prevented Siles from governing and then many would have been happy about the government...but now...

[Question] Wasn't there any officer loyal to you nearby...someone who could have prevented the coup?

[Answer] Look, I believed everyone was loyal to me. I never mistrusted anyone. And that I believe was my big mistake.

[Question] Siles Zuazo granted an interview to two reporter friends of mine a day before the coup. He told them that General Garcia Meza, at a meeting after the elections, promised him that there would be no coup and that the return to a democratic process would be respected. Did such a meeting take place?

[Answer] That is what Siles Zuazo told me also. He was convinced that there would be no coup because top military officers had assured him of this.

[Question] But didn't you as president attend that meeting?

[Answer] It was not my place to be there. That was part of the obligations of the new president. Siles Zuazo told me that this is what took place and all the information I was able to obtain on my own indicated that this was the case, that the meeting had taken place.

[Question] And was there any way to stop the coup as was the case with Colonel Natusch Busch, for example?

[Answer] That was different. Many errors were made because Natusch was satisfied with taking over the Quemado Palace and staying there blockaded. Later, I had to help him leave hidden in an armored vehicle so that the people wouldn't string him up...On the other hand, Garcia Meza, who had the help of good advisers for the coup, was never in La Paz. He changed his living quarters constantly and as you know even his wife and children were not in La Paz. They were in Lima.

[Question] You mentioned the good advisers helping Garcia Meza. Could you tell me whether it is true, as has been rumored, that this coup was backed by another South American country?

[Answer] [Left blank in the original]

[Question] I believe that it is very important for my country that you answer this question...Just imagine, what was that country doing here if it didn't have expansionist intentions?

[Answer] But why are you asking me? Why don't you ask Garcia Meza?

[Question] He will never admit it. That is obvious. What is important is that you confirm or deny something which is very serious for my country. I personally have seen officers from that country in different parts of La Paz and one of them even checked my documents. But my testimony is not important enough to serve as a warning or denunciation.

[Answer] I cannot answer that. Just think that as much as I like Chile, as much as I like the Chileans, I would like to answer but I can't...

[Question] During your administration why weren't any efforts made to restore diplomatic relations between Chile and Bolivia?

[Answer] That is what I secretly wanted most. But I made many mistakes in this respect because I talked too much, I got ahead of myself too many times and then I had to face the consequences. In that respect, the interview with ERCILLA was very harmful. If that interview had not been published, perhaps things would have been different.

[Question] But you later denied the interview...

[Answer] I did not deny it. I only clarified my position but it was already too late. A wave of criticism and attacks had already been unleashed. What I told that reporter was a little bit about how much I like you Chileans, how much I like Chile but I did not think my remarks were going to be published...I also told him many things off the record and they were not published. On the other hand, that caused more harm than good.

[Question] Were you aware that General Garcia Meza told me that the conditions for reestablishing diplomatic relations with Chile would be revised to eliminate any requirements or prior conditions and that later the foreign ministry corrected that statement?

[Answer] That is because that is a very delicate matter here in Bolivia. The people are very sensitive about an access to the sea and to date there has been one frustration after another.

Question Yesterday I visited the surrounding areas of La Paz. I visited the Villa Victoria, El Alto...I swear that I have never seen such poverty. Wouldn't this frustrate you? Doesn't this frustrate you as a president who was unable to raise the minimum standard of living of the vast majority?

Answer It is distressing to see that the task to be done is enormous. That what is needed to overcome underdevelopment is a gigantic effort. But during the 8 months that we were in office, we accomplished a great deal in social programs. We provided running water to those who had never had any, we made available public housing. My term was not only fruitful but also peaceful. Just think that during that period there was only one political prisoner and Bolivia's foreign debt was lower than that forecast by the IMF for the first quarter of 1980. The IMF estimated that our deficit would be \$90 million but it actually only totaled \$60 million, almost one-third less than what was budgeted. On the other hand, there was a surplus in the balance of trade of \$84 million because export earnings totaled \$430 million FOB while imports totaled \$346 million. These figures are for the first quarter only so what economic chaos are they talking about?

Question What would have happened if you had refused to resign?

Answer There would have been an even bigger blood bath. The people would have been massacred uselessly.

Question A newspaper reported that after signing the resignation, you said that it was not valid and that you still considered yourself to be the constitutional president of Bolivia...

Answer The only thing that I can say is that I have not made any statements to anyone, to absolutely no one. Reporters from all over the world have come here. I agreed to meet with you out of respect for a mutual friend who must be quite concerned about me. If this were not the case, you would not have made it this far either...

Question Will you leave politics after this experience?

Answer I have said that before and thank God I said it earlier. My goal was to turn over the reigns of power to the person chosen by the people... Only 20 days remained for that to happen. Fortunately, I always said that this was as far as I would go, that I believed that to a certain extent I had fulfilled my mission. After this incident I will definitely leave politics.

Question Will your permanent residence be in Chile?

Answer I cannot answer that now... I will come to Santiago sometime, but I don't know when.

[Question] Is it true that you and Garcia Meza are cousins?

[Answer] Of what importance is that?

[Question] It's just that he has not answered that question either even though he has made it clear that you two are cousins.

[Answer] Ha!

[Question] I tell myself that if he had no misgivings about overthrowing his own cousin, he would have no qualms about denying my statements since I am just a reporter and a Chilean.

[Answer] Look, what I can tell you is that the coup began here at the moment in which he forced me to appoint him commander in chief of the army. He wanted to be president and he was preparing himself for that position since he became the head of the Military College.

[Question] But it is rumored that he does not have the support of all the generals...

[Answer] I know he has problems with the Cochabamba Division chief, General Mario Vargas, who is one of the most intelligent and well-trained officers in our armed forces.

Editors Note: A week after this interview with Lidia Gueiler was held, the president removed General Mario Vargas from his post.

[Question] Hernan Siles Zuazo has released a statement to foreign correspondents in which he states that he has not asked for asylum and that he has not called for a halt to the opposition to the new government junta. Do you think that his appeal will be successful?

[Answer] I believe that Siles is in the mines with the miners. I don't know how long he can hold out there, but I fear that his position might lead to civil war which will mean more suffering, more deaths and more bloodshed for the people.

[Question] In your opinion what position should the people take?

[Answer] I am not in a position to answer that question now. After I have a general overall view of the situation then we will see.

[Question] Since as a Chilean I am not too familiar with Bolivia's situation, I cannot explain why this coup was so different from previous ones in this country. Why was there so much violence, so much show of military force. Siles Zuazo said that it is unusual for the coup to have taken place during the day and unlike the others which occurred at night or in the early morning hours. How did the situation change?

[Answer] It didn't change at all. Everything that you have mentioned only shows that the coup was well executed and planned. And you see that the first step before the coup began was to arrest all reporters in La Paz. Then my entire cabinet was arrested in their homes or at the government palace. Then they cut off all union headquarters, the headquarters of the Committee in Defense of Democracy where they killed Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz and Oscar Sanjinez.

[Question] And you, where were you arrested?

[Answer] At my home. They surrounded my house with military troops and threatened me into resigning.

[Question] Is it true that you threatened to commit suicide with the idea of threatening Garcia Meza with a dead president whose memory he would have to combat?

[Answer] [Left blank in the original.]

[Question] Who prepared the text of your resignation?

[Answer] Ask Garcia Meza...He arrived at my house with a prepared text.

[Question] But the text states that you agree to turn over control of the nation to the armed forces to prevent further suffering. Who put that into the text?

[Answer] Ask Garcia Meza. He knows the whole story very well. Also ask him why the coup occurred first and then many hours later my resignation was made public. If I resigned, as has been said, why didn't I submit my resignation to Congress which is constitutionally responsible for such matters instead of to him who was subordinate to the president? Ask him why if they took control of the Quemado Palace shortly after 1000 hours they didn't make public my resignation until 2300 hours?

[Question] What did they tell you, what did they threaten you with to make you sign the resignation papers?

[Answer] By saying that he placed a gun at my chest, I am putting it mildly.

Lidia Gueiler, interim president of Bolivia by congressional mandate, was forced to sign resignation papers at 2300 hours on 17 July 1980. Afterwards she was taken from her home in a heavily armed and guarded military vehicle "as though she were traveling with the nation's treasury," according to her secretary. Now that she has left her country as an exile we publish the first interview with her since she was overthrown. We have kept our promise.

8599

CSO: 3010

BOLIVIA

COUP SEEN AS RELATED TO MILITARY INVOLVEMENT WITH DRUGS

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jul 80 p 2

[Article by Gregorio Selser: "Bolivia: Inner Workings of Drug Traffickers' Putsch"]

[Text] For many years, Gen Hugo Echeverria, commander of the Army's VI Corps, headquartered in Santa Cruz de la Sierra Department (as published), has had two fixed hates: communism and the police.

That a Latin American military man would hate communism is as obvious as his wearing a uniform. However, that he would hate the police is to be taken only as an aberration or a whim.

Perhaps the best explanation in this case, one that applies to many of his comrades, arises from the fact that during the civil rebellion of 9 April 1952 the miners, peasants and students who defeated Bolivia's professional Army obtained the decisive support of the La Paz and Oruro police at the last moment. The professional Army was then dissolved.

An explanation of more recent origin would be that because of the specific nature of their profession, the police are closer to the people and very far from the large smuggling and drug trafficking operations, which, according to the conservative La Paz daily EL DIARIO, constitute the "national blight."

The smuggling and drug trafficking are carried out by officers of the three branches of the armed forces. The former developed under the regime of Gen Rene Barrientos Ortuno, and the latter spread after Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez took power with the help of Santa Cruz gangsters and groups with connections in Brazil.

It is General Echeverria who, as a colonel in charge of intelligence for the Army's former 4th Division, headquartered in Camiri, personally tortured the French journalist Regis Debray.

From 1967 onward, Echeverria undertook other professional tasks that demonstrated his natural bent for command and for the aberrations typical of an intelligence officer who controls certain mechanisms of unlimited power.

Moreover, Echeverria issued instructions that members of the Bolivian Socialist Falange be left alone when they rebelled in Santa Cruz in June; and he took measures to regain control only when the falangists were sent on the run by workers and students.

The Santa Cruz putsch, as well as all the attacks, murders, capturing of radio stations and kidnappings would have been impossible without the covert complicity and support of the chief of military intelligence, Col Luis Arce Gomez, newly appointed minister of the interior in Luis Garcia Meza's rebel cabinet. The bombs, weapons and instructions for kidnappings and murders--including that of the Catholic priest Luis Espinal--issued from the office of Colonel Arce, an expert sadistic torturer.

General Echeverria and the rebels at the distant Trinidad garrison moved first in the destabilizing climate, which was intensified by the induced scarcity, the terrorist acts, the "hunger strikes," and, more than anything, by the verbal terrorism emanating from the armed forces themselves, in which commander Garcia Meza and the chiefs of the Navy and the Air Force took turns.

The clear, undeniable victory of the man who defeated the professional Army in battle in 1952 was, for that corrupt Army, the most insulting challenge, for it knew that he would put an end to the despicable business of drug trafficking and smuggling.

It was not an accident that one of the first victims of the "coca-men's putsch" was the socialist leader Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, who knew more than anyone about the illicit operations and the military's betrayal of their fatherland. What he had already proven about Banzer was just a sample.

If the people were to achieve control of the government by legal, constitutional means, Quiroga intended to reveal a great deal more.

9085

CSO: 3010

NATION'S PROGRESS, CURRENT PROBLEMS ASSESSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17-22 Jun 80

[Article by Jose Maria Mayrink: "Cuba Today"]

[17 Jun 80, p 42]

[Text] The "Betrayers" of Fidel's Revolution

Havana--Even so, if he could go to his family, if some relative in Miami would help, old Enrique, tired of life and disgusted by the communist regime which he never accepted, would also board ship in the port of Mariel to seek a better future in the United States.

Enrique (not his real name, naturally, a protection afforded to the majority of dissidents or "antisocial elements" in this series of articles) fought in the Sierra Maestra, got a government job and has spent the last 21 years dreaming of the possibility of fleeing to Florida, as the rest of the family did.

At 65 years of age, married, with three children, he glanced from side to side and lowered his voice in talking to the foreign journalist, changing the subject whenever a Cuban, whoever he might be, approached. Enrique described his discontent as follows:

"You know what freedom is? It is when people can earn a peso from their work and buy what they want with it, not what they force the people to buy. When I was a peasant, before the revolution, I worked like a dog. I fought against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista, but like thousands of Cubans, I was betrayed. It was as if my mother had left my father, a low, vulgar creature, to give me a stepfather who was still worse. This was exactly what happened in Cuba. Now I work like 10 dogs and live much worse. Here there is no freedom: Look closely and you will find this out by yourself, because no one will show you the truth.

In the eyes of Fidel Castro's regime, old Enrique, who earns 100 pesos a month (approximately 7,500 cruzeiros) is no more than a "gusano," a counterrevolutionary worm, who at this point should in fact abandon

pretense and take a boat to Florida, as more than 100,000 other Cubans have done in the past 2 months.

"Gusanos" and Dissidents

If Enrique were in a position to leave, he would certainly be called a traitor. After all, the revolutionaries mobilized by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) argue, he received the benefits of socialism through his participation in the struggle against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista--a job, home, a school for his children, medical aid.

But the old former revolutionary, who was a guerrilla fighter alongside Hubert Matos, a name which is now anathema in Cuba, is not satisfied with these advantages of the regime. He complains of rationing, and, more than the shortage of foodstuffs and consumer goods, he complains of the lack of freedom, because he cannot buy what he would like to buy with his money.

Enrique is a political dissident: He questions the regime's control over citizens, denounces the surveillance by the members or the always alert guards of the CDR, speaks of discrimination in the treatment of individuals ("The military and high officials are privileged"), and rebels against the lack of a choice. And, most important, he has his own definition of the word freedom.

The vast majority of the Cubans who decided to leave the island (one has only to check the statements of those arriving in Florida) do not have Enrique's political awareness. They certainly feel that they are victims of the same oppression, of the same lack of prospects, the same failure of the socialist regime to adapt to their needs, but they are incapable of defining all this as ideological dissidence.

This was the case, for example, with a Ministry of Culture employee who, taking advantage of the Mariel wave, presented herself one day at the police headquarters in her district and asked to leave. She did not fight against the Batista dictatorship, was not required to resist the invaders at the Bay of Pigs, and never participated in public demonstrations of support for Fidel Castro. A single mother, she was born after the revolution, and although she never participated in political activities, she was not regarded as a counterrevolutionary. Until the day when she filled out the application to embark in Mariel, in the hope of finding a future for her 2-year-old son in the United States. Now Lucia, a "lady of the night" earning 138 pesos a month (10,000 cruzeiros) is an "antisocial element."

No one took the trouble to tack a poster on her door labeling her a traitor, because it is only the most important "gusanos," those with

prestige in the bureaucracy or the community, who merit the derision of the revolutionaries, on the orders of the CDR in their neighborhood. Jose Miguel Miranda, a lawyer and diplomat, was one of these. The neighbors covered the walls of his property, close by Malecon Avenue, the seaside boulevard of Havana, with insults.

"We made you a lawyer and you turned traitor," someone wrote, recalling the opportunity the revolution gave Jose Miguel to study abroad. Staying in his rear apartment day and night, he no longer goes out on the street nor explains why he decided to emigrate in this way, incurring the scorn and the evidences of rejection, when he could have taken the opportunity on a trip abroad not to return to Cuba.

Almost all the Cubans, moreover, leave without explanation, waiting until they reach Florida--the destination of most--to say why they decided to abandon their fatherland. In the first half of May, six performers at the deluxe cabaret at the Habana Riviera Hotel departed suddenly, without even saying farewell to the colleagues still performing their tropical shows on the stage.

"Are you sure there will be exit visas for those who seek refuge at the United States office?" asked a taxi dispatcher (the employee who records the destination of each taxi which takes on a passenger) when the newspaper GRANMA published the report that Jimmy Carter wanted to control Cuban immigration. Two days later, he joined the line in Mariel, leaving his 100 pesos job in Cuba behind.

Example and Propaganda

There are people who flee for admitted ideological reasons, there are those also who go for very personal reasons (such as the musician Victor Sarabia, concerned about the treatment of his son who needs surgery for a defective hand), and there are even thousands who go against their will, forced by Fidel Castro's police. But one of the main causes for the mass emigration, it is generally admitted in Cuba, is the example of the former exiles who have visited the relatives they left on the island on weekends in the past five years.

"It is hard to understand how the regime allows this," a Catholic priest commented, "authorizing luxury tourism for Miami Cubans who until a few years back were regarded as traitors and 'gusanos,' exactly like those leaving now. Many of them come at the invitation of the government and are guests in the best hotels of Havana at government expense."

Despite all the incidents in the past 2 months (the invasion of the Peruvian Embassy, the occupation of the United States office, the boats leaving from Mariel, the "anti-imperialist" protest and campaigns such as had not occurred for a long time), the Cuban tourists from the prosperous colony in Florida continue to arrive in Havana weekly.

The Allure of the Miami Cubans

They come by chartered plane, wearing fine clothing and gold wrist watches, relating marvels about a land which is no longer able today to offer new immigrants the same opportunities for work and enrichment as it did 15 or 20 years back. But with their tales of comfort, luxury automobiles, pleasures and freedom, they impress the relatives who are still on the island, living under a socialist regime which has not kept its promises to them of material prosperity so long awaited.

Any ordinary traveler would have to make a roundabout trip (via Jamaica, Mexico or Panama) to go from Miami to Havana, but everything is easier for the tourist from the United States. One requests an air taxi by telephone and in less than 2 hours can fly from one city to the other. A two-engine plane carrying six persons makes the trip for only \$700 (36,500 cruzeiros).

The influence is not exerted only by the exiled Cubans who, rich and confident now, visit the island. It also is carried by the Voice of America, which broadcasts from Washington in Spanish, or the Miami radio stations, which anyone with a medium-wave receiver can hear. And also, the radio broadcasts from the United States from which the Cubans learn what is happening in the world, which does not appear on the pages of GRANMA.

Perhaps Fidel Castro did not imagine so many people would leave the country when he ordered the guard withdrawn from the gardens of the Peruvian Embassy, where more than 10,000 persons sought refuge in the first week of April. In Havana, it is acknowledged that it was all pre-planned, but it is also said that there was an error in calculation. In any case, the government tried to capitalize on the flight of the dissidents, interpreting their departure as a bloodletting which will benefit the ailing body.

This was what Fidel Castro said in his 1 May speech in Revolution Square, when the number of "antisocial elements" who had departed from Mariel had already reached 20,000. He scoffed at the United States and President Carter, challenging them to control the problem they had provoked. And when a few days later, the Americans complained of the presence of criminals among the refugees, GRANMA glowed with satisfaction. "We warned that they were antisocial elements," the journal noted, to show that Cuba was not to blame.

It is obvious that there are hundreds of undesirables. Confirmed reports from Havana indicate that the police are selecting those who should leave, forcing individuals unwanted by the revolution to depart in each convoy leaving Mariel. Among them there are thieves, convicts (who were common or political criminals), bums and prostitutes, which Fidel Castro said no longer existed in Cuba.

The Campaign Against the United States

The emigration to the United States has often divided families, either for ideological reasons or otherwise. A woman, for example, recounted in the holy intimacy of a Havana church that her daughter had sought exile at the Peruvian Embassy, hoping to be allowed to embark in Mariel, and she regretted that the rest of the family had not had the opportunity to follow her example. At a house in the center of the city, a young revolutionary--a member of the CDR and participant in the "march of the combative people" on 17 May--condemned the attitude of her sister who decided to go and make her life in Miami. More precisely, to pursue the prostitution which Cuban law prohibits in the United States.

Simultaneous with the discrediting of the "antisocial elements" (vagrants, parasites, bums and traitors), Fidel Castro is intensifying propaganda against the United States, and in particular, the difficulties, violations, decline and illusions in the American cities. The satiric path taken by the tales broadcast by the radio in Havana--dealing with robbery, homosexuality and gambling in New York for example--have now spread to Panama and Nicaragua, where the theaters are also showing a Cuban documentary on the behavior of the refugees at the Peruvian Embassy.

Inside and outside Cuba, the left wing immediately accepted Fidel Castro's explanations and justifications for the mass emigration of more than 100,000 Cubans, who, added to those who crossed the straits to Florida beginning in 1960, bring the total to approximately a million dissidents or "antisocial elements," i.e., 10 percent of the present population of the country, which is 10 million.

"What is happening in Cuba is a sociological phenomenon which can be compared to the biological disinfection of any living body which coughs up, vomits or excretes waste," said a former Brazilian exile now living in Nicaragua.

Arguments and explanations of this kind gain greater strength from the behavior of refugees who cause incidents and chaos in the temporary camps in Lima, San Jose, Costa Rica, and Key West, in the United States. Whenever the U.S. police intervene to control the Cubans who have recently arrived in Florida, GRANMA provides space for photographs and reports. Not to condemn police repression, but to show what kind of people Jimmy Carter is welcoming.

Suspicion, Rage, Surveillance

"You are suspect, a potential enemy of the revolution, like any journalist from a capitalist country. Therefore you must be very careful. Don't go out there taking pictures because the people are very irritated and watch foreigners."

Delfin Penton, my main contact at the Foreign Press Service Enterprise, a body recently established by the foreign ministry, excused himself thus for the seizure of a film which the police had taken from me in Mariel, claiming I had photographed "military objectives."

The seized film which Delfin Penton promised to recover for me but in the end did not, showed a motorcycle policeman, along with a bus and a slogan saying "The United People Will Never Be Conquered."

"This is not indicative of our policy, because we prefer now to let journalists travel through the country alone," Delfin said, adding that "making guides available to foreign reporters gives the impression that there is no freedom in Cuba."

It was only then, after 5 days in Havana, that I learned it was prohibited to photograph policemen, who are included in the security norms category "military objectives." On the same day as the incident in Mariel, I also visited a sugar mill, where I and my driver, Luciano, were detained and questioned for half an hour.

The guardsman Echeverria, who caught me photographing children leaving a school, took us to the police station. After interrogating us and copying down all the information from my passport, the chief explained that one cannot visit or photograph a plant in Cuba without the written authorization of the sugar ministry. But he forgot to take the film.

Luciano, the taxi driver, said that all of this was but an unimportant misunderstanding, but he was not to be found at the hotel on subsequent days. A week later, I made another tour with him in Havana. He assured me all was well, but he was no longer interested in conversation.

With the exception of these two incidents, I spent 15 days in Cuba without visible problems. Walking the streets of Havana and taking pictures, I saw no evidence that I was being watched. It was obvious that I was noticed, like any foreign journalist--Delfin Penton made this very clear--but not once was I questioned or detained. If no one helped in any way, they did not hinder either.

In old Havana, the historic heart of the capital, a black youth asked me if I were a Soviet tourist and then asked me to take his picture. Young people and children as well frequently ask for a picture, posing smilingly for the camera, but there were some instances in which people averted their faces when they saw that I was focusing in their direction.

The contact between the people and the foreigner is not easy. The Cuban is initially somewhat mistrustful, but then with the first words the interchange becomes natural. The people are generally happy and cordial. The majority of them have vague information about Brazil and are

interested in economic progress. The Havana radio stations broadcast Brazilian music, mostly orchestral, quite frequently, taking the opportunity in the intervals to describe the slums of Rio and the violence in Sao Paulo.

In order to travel to Cuba as a journalist, I applied for a visa through the Cuban Embassy in Buenos Aires, explaining by Telex what I wanted to do in that country. On reaching Havana, I filled out a form at the Foreign Press Service Enterprise ("Have you ever written anything about Cuba?" was asked) in order to obtain a work permit.

Ismael Garcia, who met me on behalf of the foreign ministry at the airport, thought I was from Argentina. Through him, I renewed in writing my requests for interviews with government authorities and indicated my intention of going to Mariel and visiting the Isle of Youth (formerly the Isle of Pines), where Cuba has special schools for African and Latin American students.

"It is all in process, but it takes time because the officials do not want to talk to foreign journalists just now," Delfin Penton explained 6 days later. He advised me to submit questionnaires in writing. There was never any response to my two questionnaires—one on foreign policy and another on economic matters.

Foreign correspondents who have lived in the country for years, some since the revolution, assured me that it would not be easy to arrange meetings and interviews. Some of them, even those working for communist newspapers, have also been waiting for some time for responses to their requests.

"In this regard, they are just. They do not discriminate in favor of anyone, even the Russians," said a Western diplomat, while explaining the difficulties imposed on journalists by Fidel Castro's government.

But it is obvious that there are exceptions. Specially invited guests have their travels and interviews arranged. During the month of May, a delegation of representatives from 18 Latin American countries, guests of the Cuban Journalists Union, was able to visit the forbidden port of Mariel twice. But they were journalists who came to Havana to discuss freedom of information throughout the world, not to write reports. For 10 days, they discussed problems involving the press and the role of news agencies, condemning the "imperialism" pursued by the capitalist enterprises. The communist party newspaper GRANMA did not give the meeting any importance, but it published two motions of solidarity with Cuba passed by the participant.

Perhaps I could have obtained some official interviews if I had had more time and patience. At the Foreign Press Service Enterprise, they even offered me a car and a driver to facilitate my work at the beginning. I

thanked them for the offer, explaining that I preferred to use taxis and to proceed alone. They did not insist. The new foreign ministry norms, of which Dellin Penton spoke (leaving journalists to do as they wish) apparently are in effect.

Also, the reporters who went to Havana to cover the "march of the combative people" on 17 May were provided with a special bus only to take them to the site of the parade. For other reporting tasks, they could go alone. Or at least they could try, since all of those who risked a visit to Mariel had their films seized too.

[18 Jun 80, p 6]

[Text] Sugar, Cars, Television Sets--21 Years of Waiting Lines

Havana--Once in the morning and again in the afternoon all of the Cuban housewives go to the shops and markets in their neighborhoods in the hope of finding the items of first necessity lacking the day before on the shelves. It would be impossible, almost a miracle, to purchase in one trip everything to which the rationing booklet entitles one every 9 days. When there is sugar, the bread has sold out. If there are beans, there is no rice.

A line at the refrigerator counter is a good sign--there may be no beef, but they are probably selling pork shanks or chicken or fish. One has no choice, because one is already very lucky to get away with what is offered weighed and packaged, in the exact measure established by law for each individual.

Beef, for example, costs 38 centavos (28.50 cruzeiros) for a 12 ounce or 340 gram package. This means that a family of four can purchase 1.3 kilos every 9 days at a cost of 114 cruzeiros. For a country which has lived under strict rationing for 21 years, the quantity and price would be reasonable if it were possible to alternate beef with fish, chicken or pork shanks, which are slightly more expensive. The problem is to find them available as well.

On 15 May, at a market on 19th Street in the Vedado quarter, they were selling only rice (460 grams for five persons), sugar (the same quantity for four), cooking oil (250 grams per person), salt (250 grams per person), beverages, corn meal, milk and dairy products. A liter of rum cost the equivalent of 1,260 cruzeiros and a bottle of cheap brandy Cr\$ 720. Although made in Cuba and excluded from rationing, both these products are regarded as luxuries.

"The people are experiencing shortages, but they are not starving," says Jose Guilherme, a sound technician at the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, a revolutionary from the beginning. He notes, for example, that there is no lack of milk for the children.

This is true. Up to the age of 7, every child has a right to a liter of milk a day, which gives a family which has two or three small children a good quota. Yogurt and butter too are found more readily on the market and serve to compensate for the lack of other foodstuffs. A liter of milk costs the equivalent of 15 cruzeiros, one of yogurt 60 cruzeiros and one of butter 45.

The Cuban Way

The interminable rationing has led Cubans to use certain resources which, although illegal, serve to balance the family diet. One of them is the exchange, always clandestine, of items in excess at home with friends and neighbors. Those who will not consume the full quota of milk and dairy products exchange a part for sugar, rice, cigarettes, or something else the other has available.

As money does not have great value in Cuba (although the peso is officially quoted at 0.727 on the dollar), food, clothing, shoes, and domestic appliances serve on the clandestine market for payment in kind. It is very common in Havana for an individual to give someone else a book of coupons to which he is entitled, for example, for the purchase of a fan which he does not need.

A foreigner who has lived for some years in Cuba routinely pays in foodstuffs for the repair of his automobile--a Soviet Lada, a four-door version of the Fiat 1600--which is done regularly by a mechanic in his spare time. This is good for the foreigner, because he is not subject to rationing and can purchase at will all he can on the market for foreigners. It is even better for the Cuban mechanic, for if he were paid in money he would not even be able to spend it at the neighborhood grocery.

Another Cuban technique is to take something to the restaurant which will supplement the limited amount rationing allows. A family which can get a table (on weekends, the restaurants have interminable lines requiring hours of waiting) he can ask to have what is not consumed on the spot wrapped up to take home--meat, rice, fish, beans--anything which can be kept in the refrigerator. But the restaurants are expensive. One must spend at least 7 pesos (Cr\$ 525) per person.

When the stores offer articles less frequently seen, for coupons or for free sales--that is without rationing but at higher prices--the lines are still longer. An announcement that Soviet fans were for sale, for example, produced a line of hundreds of people lasting 3 days, and as the shipment was limited, only the first could be satisfied. This process happens regularly with refrigerators, air conditioners, bicycles, etc.

A group leader (in the family or establishments there are group leaders who are entitled to articles for joint use) was lucky enough to buy a Russian bicycle for which he did not have to wait, paying 160 pesos or Cr\$ 12,000. In choosing to buy it, he had to decide against equivalent articles, because the booklet demands exclusive choices. An individual who buys a pair of trousers, for example, surrenders his right to the two shirts he could have in that half year.

"It is one thing or the other, one must always make the choice," commented a psychology student, pointing to the worn-out shoes which could not be replaced before the end of the year.

Women, naturally, would have a wider range of choice, since socialism has not in 21 years succeeded in eliminating feminine vanity. But in general, it is not of the shortage of clothing, shoes, household appliances and other consumer goods that the Cubans complain. When all is said and done, no one has to go barefoot or in tatters in Cuba. What is painful even on a day-to-day basis is the rationing of food. For the workers, who can lunch at the plants for 50 centavos (37.50 cruzeiros) per meal, working also means an advantage in eating. The lunch has no variety, but it can be said to be reasonable. Students have their food assured if they win scholarships at the schools.

In the rural sector, the situation is better than in the cities, because there are the cooperatives with their markets. In addition to finding enough there, although goods are also subject to the rationing booklet, the rural workers have the advantage of keeping a part of the production they do not turn over to the government (about 20 percent of the total), in addition to being able to plant small fruit and vegetable gardens in their backyards for family consumption.

On 20 May, the newspaper GRANMA announced the opening of "farmers markets" (a kind of free growers' fairs) in 8 Havana neighborhoods. This report was immediately picked up and distributed abroad by a news agency as meaning the probable end of rationing lines. But the free markets were a deception: The individuals who went to them on the following days could not find the items announced to buy. There had been none or they were sold out.

Institutions (army, police, trade unions, religious communities, cooperatives) can make direct purchases of foodstuffs without having to go to the markets and the groceries in the neighborhoods. When they have a good administrator and make wise and critical choices in the correct quantities, this proves to be a good solution for supplying the kitchen. This exception is true for foodstuffs, but not for consumer goods.

It does not suffice to have money in the pocket and the necessary coupons to purchase the articles in plentiful market supply. The sale of a refrigerator or television set, for example, is conditional upon the

merit of the candidate. This merit is evaluated by the members of the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution in his development or neighborhood. Those who do not prove themselves as revolutionaries or do not at least have a spirit of community cooperation will have difficulty in winning a place in the line to buy.

This is mainly true for what are regarded as luxury goods, such as automobiles. Despite the import of Argentine, Polish, Japanese and mainly Soviet vehicles, getting a priority is still a great privilege. Doctors, for example, are theoretically the first to be served, but being a doctor is not enough. The internationalists who served abroad have priority. A surgeon who has just come back from Angola, where he spent two years, expects to get his Lada in June. It will cost 3,500 pesos cash or 5,000 pesos in installments (262,000 or 375,000 cruzeiros). A doctor gets a wage ranging from 150 to 485 pesos, but he can earn up to 600 if he also has private patients (a monthly income, therefore, ranging between 12,000 and 45,000 cruzeiros).

The New Habits

Rationing has also created certain habits. One does not invite anyone to dine at home, for example. Even if the food has been placed on the table, etiquette does not require one to ask a visitor to partake. In the knowledge that all portions are carefully measured, such an omission is neither meant nor taken as rude.

When one wants to entertain a friend, it is arranged to dine at a restaurant, where each pays his own bill in the majority of cases. But it is also possible to have everything put on a single bill, for rationing does not apply there. Provided one can get a table, for on weekends and at some of the more famous restaurants, reservations 2 or 3 days in advance are necessary.

No one simply arrives at a restaurant and takes a seat, even if there are apparently empty tables. The captain must show the customer where he should sit, sometimes after a waiting period.

"In Cuba, people do not take tables, we seat them," said the captain at the L'Aiglon Restaurant in the Hotel Riviera sharply to a lady who came in and sat down. He only refrained from making her get up, as he explained, because of the child with her.

In the best restaurants, at least a third of the tables are always empty, awaiting unexpected customers. And such almost always arrive--ranking civilians or military personnel--who get a place without delay after a word with the captain. In a country where money does not buy much, rank and position have their privileges.

The lack of transportation is one of the most acute problems in Havana and also has a special influence on individual habits. Fidel Castro ordered the shifts at factories and government departments rescheduled, for example, to facilitate travel. The streets are generally empty and uncrowded, but it is necessary to insure space for all our buses.

The buses--Japanese, Italian, and Spanish, although rebaptized with the brand name Giron in Cuba--are constantly overloaded. A ticket costs 5 centavos (less than 4 cruzeiros), which each passenger deposits in the fare box on getting on at the front. "Paying one's fare is a moral duty," the educational propaganda says. In case of doubt, the driver is always watching.

The majority of vehicles belong to the state, although they are often used for private pleasures. Taxis are very rare and do not routinely pick up passengers on the street. They wait at stands at the hotels, to which they are required to return after each trip. As the drivers work for state enterprises on fixed wages, there is not the slightest question of a return fare.

Gasoline costs the equivalent of 11.25 cruzeiros per liter with the booklet or 37.50 cruzeiros on the free market. Rationing allocations entitle one to 80 or 100 liters per month, depending on the size of the car. Since oil is purchased from Soviet Union at less than the world market price, Cubans are very surprised to be told that in Brazil alcohol is produced for fuel from sugarcane, the leading Cuban product. Gasoline rationing is no novelty for them. It did not begin with the oil crisis, but with the economic blockade imposed by the United States 15 years earlier.

Apart from the shortage of automobiles (some supplier countries have not succeeded in adapting quality to the demands of the tropical climate), there is the problem of maintenance. The 25,000 automobiles purchased from Argentina, for example, do not have spare parts available on the market, and it is proving difficult to import them. In addition to the fact that prices have gone up a great deal, Cuba does not have the money to buy them, offering raw materials or finished products of no interest in payment. According to reliable reports, a large part of the spare parts which arrive for the Argentine cars simply "disappear," not due to theft, "but due to lack of coordination."

The existence of a large number of old cars (there is a large fleet of private cars and trucks manufactured in the United States in the 1950's in circulation) requires that mechanics be creative and patient in visiting scrap dealers.

"To know what a Chevrolet is, go to Cuba" is a phrase the Cubans attribute to the North Americans, in praise of the maintenance of the old cars which travel the streets of Havana, generally satisfactory in appearance and in operational condition.

A "surplus products" fair sponsored by the government to sell off articles from the state warehouses, sold out its stock of such parts as tires, wheels, steering wheels and gearshift levers, as well as electronic apparatus and household appliances, in a few days.

As happens with everything in Havana, the surplus products fair too had lines kilometers long.

[19 Jun 80, p 7]

[Text] Everything Under Control on Fidel's Orders

The affable baggage checker who carefully inspected all of the suitcases, one by one, of the Cubana de Aviación passengers at the Panama Airport on the afternoon of 8 May, subsequently boarded the Ilyushin 62 four-engine jet and flew to Havana. He was in fact a security agent, a part of a team strategically placed in the seats of the plane.

Certain that there were no bombs on board, the young man went to have his lunch (a combination sandwich with beer, a cooling cola drink or mineral water), leaving the stewardesses with the task of teaching the inexperienced how to fill out their customs declarations forms. Completing these occupied the majority for almost all of the two hours and fifteen minutes of the flight.

A woman, who until boarding had appeared to be a simple passenger, identified herself to the crew and began to serve as a kind of chief stewardess, moving up and down the aisle to advise on the information provided. The authorities make a point of knowing everything. One must declare watches, wedding and engagement rings as well as others, foreign currency, items for personal use, everything in detail.

Cuban citizens returning to the country can bring in the equivalent of a thousand pesos (Cr\$ 75,000) in imported goods, which does provide a good opportunity to buy things abroad which normally are not found in Cuba. These citizens are for the most part government employees on official passports.

"One must like Cuba a great deal to undergo all this," a woman commented to her friend, complaining of the delayed departure of the plane from Panama (the American-made fuel hose did not fit the tank opening on the Soviet plane) and the Cuban customs bureaucracy.

At the Jose Martí Airport, representatives of the various ministries awaited foreign delegations and individual tourists who, even though traveling at their own expense, are nonetheless properly guided. The welcoming personnel make hotel arrangements which the foreigner will have difficulty in changing, such is the bureaucracy and so many are the bodies involved in the hospitality process.

After landing and the stamping of the entry visa, everything is under control.

The Guest Card

"Who is responsible for the comrade's visit?" asks the receptionist at the hotel during registration. The question seems initially to be a misunderstanding, but one soon finds that no one arrives in Cuba without being a guest and that everyone is a comrade. A foreign journalist must state that he is under the jurisdiction of the foreign ministry, even if he does not come at the invitation of Fidel Castro.

A guest card with the number of the room occupied will serve as a kind of passport for everything from then on. Only with this card can the guest obtain access to his hotel (it is not allowed to visit friends in other rooms or to take the elevator to other floors) and only with it can he eat in restaurants. The captain who chooses the customer's table collects the guest card before the meal and does not return it until the bill is paid. The guest card serves the foreigner as the rationing booklet does Cuban citizens.

It is also needed to get a taxi at the hotel door. A checker notes the room number on a sheet which will also show the number of the taxi, the time of departure and the destination. When dismissed by the passenger the driver must return to the starting point or go to another hotel in the city which also has its checker. Both driver and checker are employees of the government, to which the taxi enterprises belong. It is still possible to find some private cars for hire, generally serving as jitneys. Rarer with every passing day, these are old American cars from the '50's whose ownership the revolution respected. Whoever is lucky enough to catch one of these drivers will not be subject to the checks.

Naturally, there are official explanations for the existence of the checkers and the records. According to the Cuban government, it is necessary to rationalize taxi services so that they can serve as many people as possible, now that the vehicles are few. The Hotel Riviera, for example, has only five taxis to serve its guests (more than 500 rooms, always occupied). Those who do not want to face the line at the main door, where generally one waits at least half an hour, can make use of the tourist company for which one pays in dollars, at three an hour, plus 20 cents for every kilometer traveled. But the control is the same.

Official guests and foreign technicians working for the revolution have drivers assigned to them, generally in Soviet Volga or Lada cars. Delegations usually use a tourist bus or a Spanish made Ebro minibus. The drivers, who already knew English, now understand Russian, the international language for visitors from the socialist countries, as well.

CDR Patrols

A week before the "march of the combative people" on 17 May, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution promised to mobilize more than a million persons for a demonstration of protest in front of the office representing United States interests. They did. For eight and a half hours, a crowd paraded along Malecon Avenue shouting protests against the economic blockade, occupation of the Guantanamo Base and the spy flights of the SR 71 aircraft over Cuban territory.

To achieve this, the members or leaders of the CDR organized thousands of meetings with the residents in each neighborhood and quarter, establishing who would participate in the parade. No one was required to appear and many people did not. But there were pressures. Those who did not and who foresaw problems tried to get certificates from their employers to the effect that they were working that day, and thus prevented from demonstrating their support of the revolution. The participants, on the other hand, received a certificate of participation signed by Fidel. "The revolution is free and voluntary," the official propaganda says, but it is desirable to be clearly in favor of it.

Those who do not support the revolution are counterrevolutionaries, enemies of the regime, or in the best of cases, parasites and vagrants. It was to defend the revolution against this type of people that the CDR developed, being created in September of 1960 at the suggestion of Fidel Castro. They have almost five million members today, half of the population, but there cannot be more than 500,000 CDR leaders or coordinators who keep watch over each city block. They are always alert and in times of danger or foreign threat--as the present period is regarded because of the exodus of "gusano" refugees, "a maneuver of the Yankee imperialists"--they take up posts on the corners, red bands on their left arms, watchful for the slightest suspicious movement.

The CDR cadres--if they were in a capitalist country they would be called "fascist inspectors"--exercise police control (even having authority comparable to that of the police) and are always ready to denounce the enemies of the revolution. Such an individual can be the building janitor, any resident, an employee at the corner pharmacy, watching and observing circumspectly. But in the majority of cases, his presence is evident and he is perfectly identifiable. Their offices are marked with shields and banners, and their notices and meeting announcements are clearly visible on the building walls. Posted as guards at strategic places (the area around the Peruvian Embassy and the United States office where refugees have sought asylum, for example), they do not carry weapons but there are always policemen nearby. Havana is certainly one of the best policed cities in the world.

But this is not the only work of the CDR members. They also carry out civic, political, educational and humanitarian tasks. Just as they may organize a demonstration of support for Fidel Castro, they may select internationalists to go to Angola or Ethiopia, teachers to go to Nicaragua, voluntary workers to cut cane. It was the CDR members who mobilized 100,000 blood donors for the victims of an earthquake in Peru in 1970. They cooperated in the campaigns to eliminate illiteracy, to increase production, to build housing complexes. It is they too who teach the Pioneers (members of the communist children's and youth association), who coach athletics and teach gymnastics in the schools. Their work is, naturally, voluntary.

As the organization for mobilizing the masses, the CDR serve as the right arm of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (army, militia, police), in the service of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. Their members are very often also the members of other communist groups, such as the Union of Young Communists, the Federation of Cuban Women, the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, the Federation of University Students, and the National Association of Small Farmers. At the age of 15, adolescents leaving the Jose Marti Pioneers Organization become members of the CDR and go into the adult organizations.

The Defense of Fidel

The days are now past when Fidel Castro drove through the streets of Havana at the wheel of his jeep showing the city to official guests. Now he uses a closed automobile, always accompanied by half a dozen vehicles with security agents, like any chief of state. Opponents of the regime say that Fidel wears a bullet-proof vest, a report which it is of course not possible to confirm.

"It is necessary to protect him," a CDR member and veteran of the Bay of Pigs explained, after saying that a foreign journalist in Cuba can see everything, but he certainly cannot gain access to the Central Committee of the Communist Party to interview Fidel Castro.

But the commander still mixes with the people. Two days after the fire at the Le Van Tam Children's Center on the afternoon of 8 May, the newspaper GRANMA showed a photograph of Fidel Castro at the side of the authorities and coast guard members, supervising the work of the firemen and demonstrating his solidarity with the 575 children threatened by the "criminal fire," attributed of course to the CIA without further investigation. The photograph was interesting, because in its preceding edition, with the first reports of the fire, the same newspaper had stated that no photographer was present at the site, giving that as the reason for publishing no pictures of the catastrophe.

Fidel Castro is the object of an almost impassioned personality cult, officially encouraged by the communist party and by all the official

propaganda. His heroic portrait is to be seen everywhere, his name appears in popular songs and martial marches, his words are the orders of a commander in chief which the "combative people" must obey.

He speaks on television or visits public projects and institutions, but his great contact with the people is during the gatherings in Revolution Square, where the workers' festival on 1 May brings together more than a million persons. Moreover, these gatherings are the only public manifestations allowed in Cuba. Protest marches, even when favorable to the government, are prohibited, and for many years now there have been none. This may be one of the explanations for the enthusiasm of the demonstrators who paraded in front of the Peruvian Embassy and the United States office in April and May, in the marches organized by the CDR.

In a city without many leisure time choices, and where there are lines for the movies, restaurant, ice cream parlors and even to buy the newspaper GRANMA, singing and shouting in the streets with the blessing of the revolution could not fail to be fine entertainment.

[20 Jun 80, p 7]

[Text] Cuban Reaction to the Blockade

The revolutionaries who went out into the streets in the larger cities in the country on the morning of 17 May to protest against the United States in the "march of the combative people" had in the following days to transform their combative attitude and political energy into "productive strength" in the service of industry and, mainly, agriculture.

Fidel Castro's admonition, speaking on this workers' holiday, presented this appeal to the crowd:

"The coming weeks will be decisive, both for the completion of the harvests and the quantity of cane which must be planted and cleared."

If the five million participants in the parade had heeded the appeal and streamed into voluntary labor in the sugar mills, they would not have had much to do. Only twenty days after Fidel Castro's speech, the communist party newspaper GRANMA reported that sugar production was below the estimates due to lack of sugarcane, which was damaged by down-pours.

In an article praising the "macheteros" or cane cutters who formed 1,240 brigades for the 1980 harvest, the newspaper said that despite all of the revolutionary effort, the production of sugar this year will not even equal the 1979 figure, which was 7.792 million tons--the second best since the fall of Fulgencio Batista. The record during the 21 years since the revolution was set during the 1970 harvest, when Fidel Castro set the goal of 10 million tons and a total of 8.3 million was achieved.

The most optimistic estimates for 1980 indicate production of 6.5 million tons of sugar or a little more. Cuba will thus lose second place among world producers to Brazil, which is expected to produce 7.6 million tons, according to the estimates of the Sugar and Alcohol Institute (IAA). First place will probably continue to be held by the Soviet Union, with its estimated production of between 7.5 million and 8.2 million tons of beet sugar. But Cuba will remain the leading world exporter. And as international market prices are developing well (the price per ton, which was 180 dollars last year, is quoted now at 460), sugar will once again be the salvation of its economy.

"It will be the salvation because in tobacco, our second most important product, there was a drop of 92 percent due to the plague which destroyed our plantings at the end of last year," an official at the foreign ministry commented.

The first government measure was to ration cigarettes and cigars on the domestic market still further, to safeguard the available stocks for export. The popular cigarettes sold at 20 centavos (15 cruzeiros) with the ration booklet in red packages cost eight times that (1.6 pesos or 120 cruzeiros) on the free market, or nonrationed, in blue packages. The best cigars are sold at 50 centavos (38 cruzeiros) each and up.

The Cubans have no one to blame for the excessive rainfall which threatened the sugarcane harvest, but they have already pointed the finger of responsibility for the plague which ruined the tobacco plantings at the imperialist agents of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States. Moreover, the CIA is systematically blamed for everything bad which happens in Cuba. Official propaganda also attributes to it the introduction of the hog cholera which has affected swine breeding, forcing the government to slaughter the entire swine herd in the province of Guantanamo.

Productivity

Weather, insect and disease phenomena are not always the only explanation for the production drops. The revolution is also struggling against an acute but long standing disease--the low productivity of the workers.

There are no figures for these levels, but there is a general consensus that neither the appeals of Fidel Castro nor the encouragement of official propaganda has succeeded in changing the situation.

"One explanation may be the adaptation of the worker, who has his wage guaranteed at the end of the month whether he produces much or little," an engineer in the energy sector who regards this problem as "insoluble" for the revolution to date, commented. A worker who earns a wage of 150 pesos (11,250 cruzeiros per month) is not interested in producing more, because his effort will not bring him more than he earns, above all when he already has the essentials provided by the system at home.

The only incentive which works is the possibility of accumulating merit points to have access to luxury goods such as television sets, radios, fans, bicycles and automobiles. One who wants priority in the lines of seekers after such comforts will try to increase his productivity at work and will offer his services in voluntary labor on his weekly day off.

Complacency is obvious in the public departments and the state enterprises. Cubana de Aviacion (Cuban Aviation), for example, provides justification for Fidel Castro's criticisms of the transportation services at the end of last year, when he asked their employees for greater dedication. At the agency on the Rampa, the avenue where the airline offices are located in Havana, the employees are in no hurry to deal with clients. Four or five women at a time work on a single ticket, while the waiting line in the lobby lengthens.

The same thing happens in the restaurants, at hotel reception desks, in stores and at the markets. In the effort to keep its promise of full employment--jobs for all--the state assigns more people than are needed everywhere, sometimes without real vocational training. In the restaurants, for example, the customer is unlikely to see the same waiter twice. After the captain takes the order, at least five comrades come to the table one after the other to bring water, bread and butter, the appetizer, main course, beverage, coffee and the bill.

The term "comrade," both affectionate and revolutionary, does not prevent arguments and rudeness, sometimes to the customers, but generally among the employees themselves. The supervisors routinely rebuke their subordinates in public, and the latter do not fail to react, to argue and protest in loud voices. On these occasions, tropical spontaneity prevails over socialist decorum.

The tropical Cuban nature, moreover, did not die with the communist ideology. Its morality and the rationing difficulties have not, for example, been successful in altering behavior when it comes to entertainment, love, courtship. The shows in the nightclubs and cabarets famous since the times of the Batista dictatorship--the Tropicana, Salon Rojo, the Habana Libre and Riviera hotels, among others--retain the same style and the same standards as in the capitalist era, although the quality of the performances has ups and downs.

"The problem is that since they are on contract to and paid by the state, all performers have the same opportunities, theoretically, and therefore they are all presented, in turn, on all the stages," commented a Latin American diplomat to explain the appearance of second-rate dancers at the Tropicana, the most famous cabaret in Havana.

The Cubans who reserve tables at nightclubs to dance and eat well, and possibly to substitute Bulgarian or Soviet wine for domestic beer, see

shows which are no different from those put on in Miami or any capitalist country in Central America. A group which played at the Salon Rojo on a Tuesday in the second half of May rocked the audience with the song "America" from the musical "West Side Story."

Those who do not have money to spend in nightclubs and restaurants can go courting on the seawall on Malecon, the long avenue along Havana's maritime shore. Every night, dozens of couples go there. Oblivious of passersby, they embrace and kiss boldly, while army searchlights sweep the skies and the Straits of Florida, on the lookout for presumed invaders--the U.S. imperialists or traitorous exiles.

The Weight of the Blockade

When a Cuban speaks of the economic blockade imposed in 1962 by the United States, he complains mainly of the lack of medicines, as if the rest--food, clothing, household appliances, automobiles--were luxury goods he could do without.

"We do not even have aspirin, and yet it is all right there, only 90 miles away," said a Catholic priest, giving aspirin as an example of the implacable nature of a trade embargo which makes no exceptions.

Cuba buys its medicines (the incipient pharmaceutical industry does not yet meet the need) from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, but also from Spain, Italy, Switzerland, the FGR and Canada. Not everything is to be found in the pharmacies and what there is is expensive. Tranquilizers and simple analgesics can be bought without a prescription, which is essential for the more complex and, coincidentally, imported, medications.

But if the lack of medicines is one of the most serious consequences of the blockade, it is not the only problem. Eighteen years after its imposition, it is obvious that this has been the most effective tool the United States has found to punish Cuba for communization. The mobilization of the masses which, also on the pretext of protesting against the Guantanamo Base and the spy flights, Fidel Castro uses to exert pressure to get the blockade lifted, is proof of this.

But a Western ambassador in Havana admits that the government is prepared to do everything possible to raise the trade blockade imposed by the United States. According to these diplomats, the end of the blockade will be the only way Cuba can face up to its present economic difficulties, for it would open the doors not only to the American market, but also those in other countries which do not deal with the Cubans due to pressure from Washington.

Renewed Relations With Brazil--A Hope

Until June of last year, there was the impression in Havana that President Joao Figueiredo's government was moving toward renewed relations--diplomatic, or at least commercial--with Fidel Castro's regime. But after the conference of nonaligned nations which met in Havana at the end of August, with Brazilian observers present, things seemed to change, as if the possible interest in Brasilia had declined.

Cuban diplomatic officials admit that closer relations with Brazil would be, more than a political victory, an excellent opportunity for their country's economy. Brazilian industry could supply Cuba with vehicles, farm machinery, domestic appliances and other goods which the country is currently unable to obtain in sufficient quantities from the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, whose aid is very important, but is oriented more toward very specific areas, such as the oil supply and the installation of industries. The Cubans would import the Brazilian automobiles they currently obtain through triangular operations, via Mexico or Panama, direct from Brazil.

Without foreign exchange available for monetary payment, Cuba would have to exchange cement or raw materials which might be of interest to Brazil--such as nickel, for example--for Brazilian products. But there are difficulties, because Cuban production is already committed to the Soviet Union, from which Fidel Castro receives direct and indirect resources calculated at about 10 million dollars a day. Argentina, which since the renewal of relations more than 6 years ago has maintained trade with Havana "at a reasonable level," is having difficulties in arranging forms of payment.

Time for Housing Recovery

Havana, with a population of 1.7 million inhabitants, with its broad and tree-lined streets, bears the mark of the economic difficulties in the facades of its mansions. The old residences have become mass housing, divided into apartments and basement flats which in many cases amount to real slum tenements. Justifying the mass emigration of Cubans, the newspaper *GRANMA* admitted on 19 May to the shortage in the housing sector, reporting that in Havana alone there are 43,000 houses in poor repair, "while dozens of thousands of families are living crowded together."

The government, which in recent years has invested a great deal in apartment complexes, using the microbrigade system (each category builds its premises), has decided to allocate 80 percent of the resources beginning now to the repair of the deteriorating houses. As they were already old houses long in use at the time of the revolution, they are privately owned by residents who do not have the money to maintain them.

The government will also change the criteria for the building of housing complexes because of the shortage of elevators.

"As the elevator manufacturers are almost all American enterprises," Delfin Penton, a foreign ministry official, explained, "we cannot import new elevators or buy parts to maintain the old ones. The government has decided to build lower buildings which will not need elevators and will not have the inconvenience of many staircases."

The Harvests and Rationing

The economic effort is directly reflected in domestic supply, and thus in the rationing of foodstuffs, clothing, personal hygiene items and household tools. If the harvest is good and the industrial production increases, the goods available on the shelves of the stores and supermarkets for sale with the rationing booklet or without it, also increase. In any case, there is an advantage in the greater opportunity for choice.

The rationing book is used for foodstuffs (a kind of supply register, in which what is purchased every 9 days is recorded) and for consumer goods (a booklet of 24 coupons of different values to be used in a half or full year). Cubans know how much of articles and goods of first necessity they can buy--a package of cigarettes a week, a pair of trousers and two shirts per year, etc.--but in general there is a need to consult the list of choices posted at retail outlets in order to make use of the booklet. The best organized copy down the reports and plan their purchases at home.

When something is available for free or nonrationed sale, the booklet is not used. It suffices to pay the established price, which is almost always very high. A shirt which costs 4.50 pesos (about 340 cruzeiros) with a rationing coupon, for example, costs 20 pesos (1,500 cruzeiros) without it. At the end of last year, there were ample shirts and trousers for sale on the free market. Now there are only trousers available. These are not always domestically produced goods, because surpluses of imported foodstuffs, clothing, shoes and domestic appliances also occur. For example the Soviet Union sent quantities of television sets (the Russian CARIBE model is now assembled in Cuba) while Fidel Castro would have liked to buy more towels, as he said in his speech to the National Assembly in December of last year.

Automobiles, bicycles, television sets, refrigerators and other luxury goods require waiting in special lines, for these are items one purchases in practice only once in a lifetime. As they serve the whole family or an institution, it is group leaders who have a special booklet with the coupons of greater value who are entitled to them. Group leaders (heads of families, presidents of trade unions, religious community superiors, etc.) must show at the store, shop or supermarket the number of their

"dependents," taking items and goods in accordance with the established quotas. Where institutions are concerned, food is delivered by the government.

The Ministry of Domestic Trade has the task of supervising rationing, because it is the body which issues and distributes the booklets. They can only be used at certain established sales outlets, with the customers being assigned to the stores and shops in their neighborhood. The Cubans complain of rationing, but they say that it was once much worse. Currently there are more things available on the free market.

[21 Jun 80, p 7]

[Text] Cubans in Africa, Soviets in Cuba

Aeroflot jets at the airport, notices in Russian in the hotels, Soviet singers' records in the shops, signs for culture and cooperation associations everywhere, Lada automobiles in the streets, tireless exaltation of the 20 years of friendship with Moscow on the radio and television--all of this reflects the influence of the Soviet Union in Cuba, but the presence of the Russians is discreet.

Technicians, military personnel or tourists, they go almost unnoticed in Havana except on the weekends, when they go out in small groups to photograph the city and relax from the work which occupies them from Monday to Friday in the government department bureaucracy or the work sites at the plants under construction. More than 5,000 Russians are working in Cuba as experts and instructors, involved in about 250 projects.

At least half of this contingent--between 2,500 and 3,000--are military personnel in the brigade which Fidel Castro has identified as "Study Center No 2," denying that they are a combat unit, as President Jimmy Carter claimed in the second half of last year.

Independent journalists living in Cuba say that Fidel is telling the truth. The Russian military personnel are not armed, although it is possible that they may be mobilized for training designed to maintain form and discipline in the barracks. The mistaken spy claim of Carter may have been the result of a photograph taken by spy services catching the Russians on maneuvers.

They are instructors in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, but it is the Cubans who man the planes, tanks and ships produced in the Soviet Union, according to foreigners who have had access to the military installations. Russian specialists also train the Cubana de Aviacion pilots, the crews of fishing vessels, factory technicians and office personnel in the government departments. In the rural sector, the machines imported for the mechanization of agriculture are from the Soviet Union or the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

The Cubans do not make the slightest secret of the Russian presence, and they never tire of praising Moscow's aid. Pro-Soviet propaganda is insistent and more irritating than the anti-American campaigns, because these are now intermittent, subject to the ups and downs of revolutionary requirements. Currently in Cuba there is more talk in favor of the Soviet Union than against the United States.

An example was a celebration of Victory Day sponsored by the Russians on 9 May. The Central Committee of the Communist Party organized a ceremony at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana, during which former President Osvaldo Dorticos and the Soviet ambassador spoke. Except for a single reference to the "Western front," there was no talk of the role of the allies. For the Soviets and their friends, World War II is called the "Great Fatherland War," and there was only one winner, the Red Army. The periodicals *BOHEMIA* (communist party) and *VFRDE OLIVO* (armed forces) published special reports on the occupation of Berlin, while the newspapers *GRANMA* and *JUVENTUD REBELDE* devoted full pages to the bravery of the Russian soldiers. The socialist bloc allies--namely Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Poland and East Germany--were mentioned in passing as "liberated peoples."

The official propaganda is enthusiastically pro-Soviet, but one does not see corresponding enthusiasm among the people. The Cubans seem indifferent, which can be explained by the Russians' discretion, since they do not involve themselves with the ordinary people except in connection with working matters. Of all of the socialist technicians present in Cuba, the most cordial and friendly are the Czechs and the Bulgarians. English and Russian are the international languages for contact with the Cubans, but after a few months they all end up speaking Spanish.

Often the radio stations broadcast special programs on the cooperation of the socialist countries. There may for example be a report on the building of a textile complex which is being put up in Santiago de Cuba by East Germans, Bulgarians and Czechs, using Soviet technology. A Cuban technician interviewed (generally only the Cubans are interviewed) reports that the factory will cost 64 million pesos (4.8 billion cruzeiros), with 6,700 persons working two shifts, and will be one of the largest in Latin America.

Another type of cooperation involves sending Cuban technicians and workers for apprenticeships in the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union. This exchange explains the intensive activity on the air routes between Havana and Moscow, Prague and Berlin--and from those cities to the other socialist capitals. In the speech he made to the members of the National Assembly in December, Fidel Castro admitted that brigades of Cuban workers might be sent to Siberia in order to take out wood which the Soviet Union cannot supply to Cuba for lack of manpower.

Internationalism

The Angolan Airlines Boeing 707's land at the International Airport in Havana beside the Cubana de Aviacion Ilyushin turbojets leaving for Managua. Their passengers, civilian or military, are internationalist volunteers serving on missions abroad or Angolan and Nicaraguan students traveling to and from the Isle of Youth (formerly Isle of Pines), where there are special schools for young people from the Third World.

More than 50,000 Cubans (these are Fidel Castro's figures) are working or fighting currently in 35 countries, outstanding among which are Angola and Ethiopia. The number of internationalists, that is to say Cubans who have already served abroad, is estimated at more than 100,000. When the government asked for volunteers for Nicaragua shortly after the victory of the Sandinists, 11 months ago, about 29,000 Cubans offered their services and at least 1,200 of them are now in that country as teachers and construction technicians. There are 600 Nicaraguan students on the Isle of Youth, while an unspecified number of former guerrilla fighters in the Sandinist National Liberation Front are taking officers' courses in the Cuban barracks.

During the 17 May parade, a contingent of 2,500 former internationalist combatants who had served in Angola and Ethiopia appeared in uniform to guard the office representing the United States interests, against which the demonstrators were protesting. But normally, the internationalists are very discreet with regard to their mission.

A doctor who arrived recently from Luanda, who speaks Portuguese and is therefore interested in matters in Brazil, was afraid initially to say where he had been, saying only that he had learned the language "abroad." Only after a first talk and greater confidence did he say he had worked for 2 years with the Cuban troops fighting in Angola.

Angolan, Ethiopian, Vietnamese and North Korean students and those from other socialist countries frequent the restaurants and hotels in Havana wearing shirts which show their origin. Those from the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) are the most numerous, and also the most effusive. They live in housing at the National University or in "republics" in the city. Ismael Garcia, a foreign ministry official, says that the report that thousands of Angolan children were rounded up against the will of their parents to study Marxism in Cuba is an "imperialist slander."

The Conquered Peoples

Prior to the beginning of the wave of refugee emigration to the United States in the first week of April, when more than 10,000 persons invaded the Peruvian Embassy, the newspaper GRANMA devoted whole pages to coverage of the event. In Salvador. Since the space devoted has decreased, but official interest in the struggle of the leftist movements against the revolutionary government junta supported by the Americans continues to be keen.

According to the Cuban government, El Salvador will be the next country to be "liberated" in Central America, following the example of Nicaragua. Newspapers and radio stations still refer frequently to the death of the archbishop of San Salvador, Dom Oscar Romero, and they support all the leftist factions attempting to overthrow the junta indiscriminately. Cuba constantly reasserts its solidarity with the people of El Salvador, offering them its aid.

Nicaragua, Grenada, Guyana and up to a certain point Jamaica are in the view of the Cubans "countries liberated" for socialism. The enthusiasm is greatest with regard to Nicaragua, whose hero, from the Havana viewpoint, is Commander Daniel Ortega, one of the Sandinist representatives on the National Reconstruction Council. Daniel Ortega made a speech in Revolution Square in Havana on 1 May during the workers' festival, along with Grenadan Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

During the "march of the combative people" on 17 May, Sandinist delegations and representatives of Third World countries studying or in exile in Cuba paraded. That same day, thousands of Cuban internationalists serving in Angola and Ethiopia paraded in the streets of Luanda and Addis Ababa, according to reports carried by the official Prensa Latina agency.

Defense of the Invasion

The Cubans who condemn the intervention of the United States in Latin America or Vietnam naturally accept and have explanations for the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet troops, just as they supported the intervention in Czechoslovakia.

"The Americans invade countries to hinder the revolution of the progressive peoples, while the Soviets only respond to the requests from revolutionary governments which feel threatened for aid," is the argument put forth, for example, by Jose Guilherme, a veteran of the Bay of Pigs who is going now on a two-year internationalist mission to Nicaragua, Grenada, Angola and Ethiopia.

According to him, the Cuban troops will never set foot in a country which is still struggling for its "liberation."

"Just as the Soviets did in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and now in Afghanistan, the Cubans only send military troops and technicians to countries where the people have already seized power and need aid to establish the revolution."

The official propaganda does not mention the presence of Russian soldiers in Afghanistan, except indirectly, when reports from Kabul in which the Afghan government leaders praise Moscow's aid are published. There is no mention of the struggle or the resistance of the rebel Muslims.

In the view of the Cuban press, the world turns around the socialist countries, and Cuba in particular. During the month of May, when thousands of refugees or "antisocial elements" were leaving their fatherland through the port of Mariel, the newspapers, radio and television talked only of the world solidarity with the Cuban people against the "imperialist aggression" of the United States. One day, the newspaper denounced as a "joke" or baseless rumor the report that the government intended to end birth control, prohibiting contraceptives and abortion, in order to offset the departure of thousands of Cubans leaving the country with more births. As the press only carries communist party versions, news is frequently reported as rumors being passed from person to person.

Only the foreign news agencies (FRANCE PRESS, REUTER and the EFE have offices in Cuba) and such correspondents for newspapers in Western countries as there may be can penetrate the news blockade. For this reason, they are suspect and are always under the eye of the government officials. Their reports are not published in Cuba, but the authorities regard even contact between them and Cuban citizens as dangerous.

"Do you know what fear is? Well that is what I feel when I meet you," a university professor told a foreign correspondent on meeting him in the lobby of the Hotel Habana Riviera during the tense days preceding the "march of the combative people."

An American girl from California, who said she had been in Cuba since the beginning of the year to do research, but who was accredited as a journalist to cover the 17 May parade, dismissed the Cubans' mistrust, explaining that "they know when people feel solidarity."

In fact, not all are mistrustful and fearful of foreigners from capitalist countries, as if all were "suspect and potential enemies," according to the statement of Delfin Penton, the press contact at the foreign ministry.

"Basically, Cubans like foreigners, and in particular Americans," a Western diplomat said, recounting what happened to newspaperwoman Jo Thomas of the NEW YORK TIMES during the 1 May celebrations.

She was making notes in Revolution Square while the crowd was shouting slogans against "Yankee imperialism" and the "aggressive" acts of the United States. Suddenly, a Cuban turned toward her, saw that she was American, smiled and asked:

"Do you like Cuba?"

[22 Jun 80, p 167]

[Text] Faithful to Christ in the Land of Fidel Castro

At the Saturday evening mass on the eve of Mother's Day, the old priest in a neighborhood parish spoke to a handful of the faithful, only 30 persons, about the importance of the catechism, speaking of the responsibility of parents for the religious education of their children.

"What children learn in their mothers' laps and within the family will never be forgotten," the priest said, after urging mothers to teach their children to pray to Jesus and Mary, and to pass on to them the first rudiments of faith, "directing them and providing them with their example and advice."

The priest said that all of this takes great sacrifice, but he recalled that the church has a tradition of martyrs, as John Paul II said in his homily on Palm Sunday. The words of the pope are contained in the pamphlet "Christian Life," published in the archdiocese of Havana by the Jesuit fathers and distributed to the faithful. John Paul II, the Polish pope, spoke of the "Church of Silence."

"For there are other ways of becoming a martyr, of giving testimony, but it is all a part of the cross of Christ. Men cannot silence the witness borne by those who belong to what is conventionally called the 'Church of Silence,' the church condemned to silence which through that silence proclaims the greatest of all truths."

The celebrant did not interpret the text and saw no need to apply to the special situation of Cuba the words which John Paul II may have said with Poland, a socialist country with an age-old Catholic tradition, in mind. But the message was clear to the small gathering.

The Community

There were only 30 of them--20 women, 8 children and 2 men. Before the mass, there had been a catechism class to prepare children for their first communion. A seminarian gives the catechism lessons with the help of two women.

"In theory the constitution allows religious practice," the seminarian said, "but in fact total freedom does not exist, because there are many

pressures. Look at the catechism class for example. The parents are afraid to send their children to church because those who do this are viewed askance by their revolutionary neighbors."

At the Sunday masses in the same neighborhood parish, no more than 60 of the faithful are present. And the number of Catholics visiting the cathedral, a beautiful 17th century colonial structure in the heart of old Havana, rarely reaches 100. On weekdays, the few churches remaining in Havana only open the side doors and only for a few hours. And like the majority of the older buildings in the city, they are dirty and badly kept up for lack of resources.

The impression one has when one goes to mass is of something dying or just being born, an impression of great fragility. In truth the church is barely surviving. The few Catholics who risk the practice of their religion, ignoring the reaction of their neighbors, do so at no more than the minimal level.

No Commitment

"No one is ready to risk a great deal," a priest said, "because all are afraid of indirect repression. As the country is officially communist and atheist, there is not the slightest incentive to practice religion. On the contrary, those who go to church or send their children to catechism classes will not have much opportunity where the government has control. They will have difficulty for example in getting study scholarships, enrolling in the university or getting promotion in the bureaucracy. The result of this is that few children take their first communion and very few young people receive the sacrament of confirmation."

The leaflet "Christian Life" is the only publication of the church in Cuba and it serves as a kind of news bulletin, since the communist press does not provide space for religious news. It is by means of this leaflet that Catholics learn, although in very summary fashion, about papal pronouncements and the travels of the pope. More important documents are mimeographed for study by the clergy and the faithful, but in general they appear after a considerable time lag.

Bishops Avoid Political Discussion

Government officials say that there is no problem in relations between the church and state, because the one does not interfere in the field of the other. Catholics admit that they enjoy physical freedom to pursue their religion--that is the doors of the churches are open for worship and those who want may enter, but they then point out the restrictions and limitations which exist in practice. Limiting religion to the four walls of the church can mean strangulation.

"The number of practicing Catholics is declining steadily, but there is also a positive aspect in this, because there has been a kind of

purification leading to improved quality," commented a student at the San Carlos Theological Seminary.

Good relations between the church and state require, among other things, that the bishops limit themselves to their pastoral work and do not involve themselves in political, ideological or social affairs. The rare publications of the episcopate have all been concerned with strictly pastoral matters, and only indirectly (condemnation of atheism, appeals for fidelity to the church, instructions on religious education) do they refer to the government.

The comportment of the seven bishops who make up the Cuban episcopate today is discreet and almost aloof, as could be seen at the Episcopal Conference in Puebla at the beginning of last year. The Cuban clergy itself hoped for more active participation on the part of its bishops and admits that they did not carry to Mexico any clear contribution to the Latin American church.

Since the archbishop of Havana, Monsignor Oves, was transferred to Rome in order to have a heart problem treated at the Vatican, the archdiocese has been under the administration of the archbishop of Santiago de Cuba. He has to travel 900 kilometers between the two cities, which is naturally difficult and requires time. Havana and Santiago are the two largest cities in Cuba and also the two most important archdioceses.

Priests and Monks

When Fidel Castro launched the revolution in January of 1959, Cuba had more than 500 priests and about 5,000 nuns. The majority of the priests were Spanish. Trained in Franco's Spain, they were therefore resistant to the socialism which was being urged on the island. This explains the initial resistance of the clergy and the deportation of more than 200 priests, expelled from the country as counterrevolutionaries.

The seven Cuban dioceses now have a few more than 200 priests and approximately 1,500 nuns. There are two seminaries functioning, one in Havana (16 major seminarians, theologians and philosophers) and one in Santiago de Cuba (also 16 minor seminarians or secondary course students), in a style which can be regarded as almost traditional, with rigorous schedules, classes in Latin, lessons in dogma and morality, morning mass and evening prayers.

Subject to the same revolutionary restrictions as are imposed on the people (for example, rationing) the seminarians have decided to give their collaboration to socialism. During the month of January, the holiday period, they engage in voluntary labor on the tobacco plantations and in the cane fields. But only five priests, of the entire national clergy, work in factories.

The nuns lost their schools, all appropriated by the revolution. Some premises were spared, because the government left chapels and some of the other premises for the convents, even though they converted other wings into public secondary schools. The convent maintained by the Ursuline sisters in the Miramar quarter, the most elegant in Havana in Batista's day, is now a special school for the children of Soviet citizens living in Cuba.

Some of the orders of nuns, such as the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, continue to work as nurses in the government hospitals. There are also two hospices run by the nuns in Havana. But the problem of a lack of religious vocations exists, since it is not possible to sponsor any propaganda to encourage them. The average age of the nuns, according to a priest, is over 50, and few novices enter the convent.

Although the relations between church and state are purely formal, with a system of total separation, and there are clear or concealed pressures, and although the Catholics are afraid or at least very cautious in the practice of their religion, it is not possible to speak of "persecution" as such. Despite all the difficulties, the churches are open and a kind of "peaceful coexistence" exists.

A priest in the archdiocese of Havana reported that there has been only one case which could be termed "persecution" for religious reasons. It occurred when students at the National University demanded that a professor be dismissed, claiming she was Catholic. The professor was removed and the reasons were very clear.

Refugee Flight As a Matter of Conscience

"If so many people are leaving Cuba for the most varied reasons, it is probable that it is because of the lack of spiritual values among other things, and the church should meditate on this," said another priest, commenting on the departure of more than 100,000 Cubans for Florida.

The church is experiencing the problem of mass emigration of Cubans, not only because everyone is talking of it, but also because it is a problem among the faithful as well. Many Catholics have discussed the situation of relatives, friends and neighbors who have decided to leave Cuba with their priests and asked for advice in making their own decisions.

But the influence of the church is limited, and does not go beyond the sermons at mass and talks in the sacristy. Moreover, the clergy admits that Cubans were not very devout even in the days of the Batista dictatorship, when formal Catholicism was practiced.

"Those who were not very devout when the country was said to be Catholic," a seminarian commented, "lost all enthusiasm as soon as the state proclaimed atheism and began to discourage religious practices."

The tolerance to be found where Catholics are concerned seems diminished when it comes to the Protestant communities, perhaps because of the fact that the majority of them were established by U.S. missions. An Adventist said that the people in his church meet and pray almost in secret, because they feel great hostility on the part of their neighbors and, mainly, the guards in the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR). Another Adventist was sought out at his home by the police and told to embark, although he did not want to, at the port of Mariel.

The Church and Marxism

"Cuba has schools for all, but they are to teach the children communism," an irritated gentleman complained on being questioned as he emerged from mass about the education of his children. The official atheism and the teaching of a Marxist morality to the students, from the primary level through the university, constitute a problem for the church, because almost inevitably they succeed in weaning the young people who no longer have any incentive to profess religious beliefs away from its practice.

The primary and secondary schools (10 years in all) teach Marxism indirectly, through the classes in moral and civic education. It is only beginning in the preuniversity course, a kind of vocational secondary school, that a subject called Marxism is studied. The students must pass it, whatever course they are pursuing, in order to continue their education. Anyone who fails to pass Marxism, even if his field is electronic engineering, will not be promoted.

The church sees in the fields of education and health two triumphs for the revolution. It admits that after 21 years, one finds neither hunger nor beggars in Cuba, despite the rationing, and it agrees that socialized medicine guarantees care and hospitalization for all, although medicines are in short supply and it is still necessary to wait in line to consult a doctor or be treated.

"The problem does not involve denial of the material benefits, but the struggle for other values which have been sacrificed," said a priest in criticism of the restrictions imposed on individual freedom--political and religious--in the name of socialism.

The Cuban clergy, which protests against the lack of freedom and the pressures against the practice of religion, could be called dissident or "antisocial," as is said in Havana, but yet no priest, seminarian or nun has boarded a vessel in Mariel to go and live in the United States.

A theologian explained that the spirit of criticism and challenge in the church in Cuba comes within the framework of the requirements of its mission.

"This is the reason," he added, "that Fidel Castro's government views the church with mistrust and exerts pressure upon it, despite the appearances of a good relationship and religious freedom. It knows that after the state has dominated all the institutions, the church is the only organization to maintain its independence, with access to people's minds."

Morality According to the Revolution

"No country in this hemisphere has our moral values," Radio Cidade de Havana never tires of reiterating in its campaign to disparage the thousands of "antisocial elements" who are leaving the island to live in the United States-- the synonym, in the view of the official propaganda, of degradation, consumerism and corruption.

The Cuban regime does not deny the existence of unwanted elements in its society, but it argues that the incidence of crime is laughable in comparison to the figures in the capitalist countries. "We are the only country in America which has a low rate of theft, although there are thieves," Fidel Castro said in his 1 May speech, giving assurance that prostitution and gambling no longer exist in Cuba.

In truth, the system has established its own morality and its values are different. Some things have disappeared (gambling, for example) and others have substantially declined (drugs, which Fidel admits still exist in the country), but other phenomena are merely concealed, as is the case with prostitution.

There are no longer prostitutes in the streets nor at the doors of hotels, but this does not mean that the professionals have all gone to Miami. They continue to "work" in Havana and the difference is that they now operate with more discretion.

In the port area, the women receive special identification from the government to serve the crews of ships which, whatever the flag or ideology, come into port hungry for love, like sailors all over the world. They do not ply their trade on the wharves, but the cards identifying them as "social adaptors" give them the right to take foreign clients to their homes.

The girls who prefer "to work" in the hotels do not sell themselves for money. They are paid with a new outfit or a dinner, things that have much greater value for those who normally depend on the quotas and limitations of the rationing booklet. Any hotel in Havana will accept guests for short stays and there are also the hostels, a kind of motel for lovers. The telephone directory in the capital lists 57 of them.

The socialist morality in Cuba allows divorce, abortion and birth control by any method. In denying that the government planned to prohibit the

sale of contraceptives and abortion in order to offset the departure of the "antisocial elements," the newspaper GRANMA confirmed last month that parents are free to have as many children as they want, as they are to have none.

Some moral values, however, continue unchanged, the same as 20 years ago. Despite all the feminine emancipation, which the revolution boasts as one of its great conquests, the Cubans are still excessively male chauvinist, like all Latin Americans. A nurse, a free and single woman, bears witness to this.

"This means that there is still a great prejudice with regard to virginity, for example. If a girl goes to a hostelry with a friend, for example, she can be certain that it will be reported to her boyfriend by the neighbors."

The vigilant members or guards of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution also routinely report on the love lives of the residents in their neighborhoods. "They always know who is going out with whose woman," a foreign newsman commented.

The revolution has not changed feminine vanity nor has it altered the reputation Cuban women have always had for tropical sensuality. The words of a rhumba currently popular in Havana extol the supremacy of Cuban girls, guaranteeing that they are "the most beautiful and best there is."

And, it must said in justice, the women try to live up to it. Within the limitations of rationing, they do everything possible to vary their clothing and stay in style, the favorite subject of the female comrades in the hotel lobbies, the nightclubs, the restaurants and even government offices.

During the "march of the combative people" on 17 May, thousands of women protesting against the "aggression of Yankee imperialism" paraded with their hair in rollers and kerchiefs. After all, it was Saturday, the day one dines out at a restaurant, dances at a nightclub and makes love on the Malecon breakwater.

5157

CSO: 8142

NAVY CHIEF HAILS ARMED FORCES VANGUARDS

Insignia Awarded

FL131749 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 13 Aug 80

[Text] A ceremony to present the armed forces vanguard insignia to the soldiers, seamen, sergeants, cadets, midshipmen, noncommissioned officers, camilitos [Camilo Cienfuegos military schools students] and civilian workers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) who earned the distinction this year was held this morning in front of the museum of the revolution. The insignias were presented by Div Gen Senen Casas, first vice minister-chief of the FAR general staff; Div Gen Sixto Batista Santana, Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria and Brig Gen Ulises Rosales Del Toro, all of them members of the party Central Committee.

Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria, commander of the revolutionary navy, made the closing remarks at the ceremony.

[Begin Santamaria recording] Comrades: We are deeply pleased to share with you this moment of joy and to express to you the warmest congratulations for the insignias you have just received as FAR vanguard soldiers, seamen, cadets, midshipmen, noncommissioned officers, camilitos and civilian workers. These insignias have a special value because they symbolize the recognition of the FAR and all the working people of the productive results you have maintained in fulfilling the duties and other tasks that you have been assigned. During this training year, you and the thousands of combatants, camilitos and civilian workers have obtained satisfactory results in combat and political training, school promotions and fulfillment of the promotion plans of our military enterprises. All this demonstrates the revolutionary consciousness with which you have worked to materialize the fulfillment of agreements and resolutions of our first party congress and to carry out the orders and decisions of the commander in chief and FAR minister, thereby contributing with your effort to raise the level of combat readiness and capability, to the results of combat and political training and to the political, moral and disciplinary state of our combatants, camilitos and civilian workers.
[end recording]

Other Activities

FL151304 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Aug 80

[Text] As part of the program of activities honoring them, the members of the 1979-1980 Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) vanguard yesterday visited Havana's Museum of the Revolution. The soldiers, sailors, cadets, midshipmen, sergeants, warrant officers and Camilo Cienfuegos Military School students were welcomed at the museum by Director Lt Col Nelson Martinez, who expressed pleasure in meeting them.

CSO: 3010

AREAS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE ALLEN UNDERGOING REPAIR

FL140102 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT
14 Aug 80

[Text] The Isle of Youth special municipality is returning to normalcy owing to the intensive activity displayed by the people of Pinar Del Rio, who have been removing all traces of Hurricane Allen, which caused damage in excess of 4 million pesos.

The first shipments of materials have already been received to repair the roofs of several economic centers which were virtually destroyed by the fury of the hurricane's winds. One of the most affected economic areas was that of miscellaneous crops. In this area, fast work was done to recover the fruit felled by Hurricane Allen in the plantain fields, where more than 400 quintals were affected in four caballerias which had been ready for picking. The activity of the people of Pinar Del Rio has also been outstanding in the repair of poultry enterprise buildings. The determination of the workers resulted in the number of dead poultry being very low. The poultry enterprise reported that 99 poultry houses built many years ago were damaged. However, at present many of those houses are now completely repaired. Hence, with the determined effort of all, the Isle of Youth is returning to normalcy and recovering from the damage caused by the hurricane. The people of Pinar Del Rio have pledged to recover their losses and make much more progress.

In the Santa Cruz Del Sur municipality, Camaguey Province, work is under way to implement the recovery and restoration program in the damage caused by Hurricane Allen through the southern part of that territory. At the Montegrando vegetable farm, eight caballerias of plantains were destroyed, as were three caballerias of yuca. Members of the youth labor army and mobilized workers are working intensively to save the affected crops.

The heavy winds and rains also caused partial damage to 868 homes, which are now receiving the necessary resources through the people's government for their repair. The Santa Cruz Del Sur fishing complex was also damaged. At this time, the goal of the fishermen and the residents of the Camaguey Municipality is, in addition to repairing the fishing complex, to recondition the areas of the complex and to try for higher catches so as to keep their place among the best groups in the country.

BRIEFS

PERUVIAN LEADER CONGRATULATED--On the occasion of his 70th birthday, the PCC Central Committee has sent a congratulatory message to Jorge Del Prado, secretary general of the Peruvian Communist Party. With deep satisfaction we wish to express our revolutionary congratulations on your 70th birthday, the message states and adds: At the same time we reiterate to you our recognition and solidarity for the struggles undertaken by you in defense of your people's just and revolutionary causes. News agency dispatches, datelined Moscow, report that the secretary general of the Peruvian Communist Party was decorated with the Soviet Union's Peoples' Friendship Order on his 70th birthday. The congratulations sent to Jorge Del Prado by the CPSU Central Committee notes the Peruvian leader's contribution to the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and peoples. [Text] [FL151158 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1117 GMT 15 Aug 80]

WESTERN RAILROAD SHOPS--The railroad shops of the western division in Cardenas are producing rail connectors for the first time in the history of the country. These connectors used to be imported, thus reducing a considerable amount in foreign currency drain. In a tour of the railroad shops, Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of transportation, verified the preparations being made to increase the production of those elements with the aim to replace thousands of connectors in the national railway system which are in poor condition. The connectors are essential for new sidings and railroad yards. Each of them represents a savings of some \$11,500. It was learned that the western railroad shops will make an effort to produce 88 connectors this year and 130 for the next. [Text] [FL141023 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 Aug 80]

CSO: 3010

GRENADA

BRIEFS

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BULGARIA--A Grenadian Government delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard left Bucharest after an official several-days visit. The Grenadian delegation met with Bulgarian leaders and later signed several agreements on trade and scientific-technical cooperation. [Text] [FL150953 Havana Voice of Cuba in English to North America and the Caribbean 0500 GMT 15 Aug 80]

CSO: 3020

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

NEW GENERALS PROMOTED--The promotion of seven top officers of the armed forces to brigade generals and an impressive parade were the main highlights of the celebration of Army Day on 30 June. The officers promoted to brigade generals are: Manuel Benedicto Lucas Garcia, commander of the military brigade in Poptun, Peten and brother of the president of the republic; Jose Oscar Sandoval Torres, director of the center of military studies; Horacio Egberto Maldonado Schaad, commander of the honor guard; Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, commander of the "Justo Rufino Barrios" general headquarters; Luis Federico Fuentes Corado, chairman of the National Reconstruction Committee, and Jose Francisco Salazar Asturias, defense deputy minister. [PA220235 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 2 Jul 80 p 8]

NEW FRENCH ENVOY--The new French ambassador to Guatemala, Louis Henri Deble, presented his credentials on 23 July to Guatemalan President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia. [PA250254 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Jul 80]

TRADE WITH ROMANIA--The decree authorizing the government to begin trade relations with Romania goes into effect today. Yesterday, the National Congress approved Decree 4180 dealing with this. [Text] [PA250254 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jul 80]

CSO: 3010

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

HONDUTEL EXPANDS INSTALLATIONS--The Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise [Hondutel] is expanding several projects and updating its working area in order to adjust to the rapid growth of its technical activities. Hondutel is investing 1 million lempiras in an internal plant in Miraflores District in Tegucigalpa. This installation will cover a two-story building large enough to accommodate its operations. In this building will be installed the telex equipment serving the public in personal and commercial activities, as well as the country's official institutions requiring a continuous communication. A fourth floor was built on the communications palace at a cost of more than 300,000 lempiras. [Text] [PA300448 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 30 Jul 80]

CSO: 3010

MOTHERS PROTEST AT HONDURAN EMBASSY

PA090002 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Aug 80

[Commentary by Roberto Gonzalez]

[Text] Three companeras of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Women's Association are still talking to an official of the Honduran Embassy. Some 1,000 women marched to the embassy, located at Km 7 on the southern highway. They represent several Managua districts, and asked the Honduran Embassy here to request its government to control the Somozist paramilitary gangs which are ravaging the northern part of the country and have (?murdered) a considerable number of literacy workers.

The document presented by the three delegates allowed to enter the embassy grounds reads as follows:

To the Honduran Embassy, from the Committee of Managua Literacy Campaign Mothers to the ambassador of Honduras, Managua, free Nicaragua: Nicaraguan mothers are deeply concerned over the safety of our children participating in the noble task of teaching the great majority of our nation to read, especially the peasants. We and our children fought a bitter battle in the past against the genocidal Somozist national guard until our Sandinist revolutionary triumph and paid the price to attain freedom. Today we are striving to free Nicaragua again, this time from ignorance.

In another part, the communique says education and health workers, both women and children, have been killed.

The communique ends by saying that, in hope that their requests will be needed, the Nicaraguan mothers send fraternal greetings to all the people of the fraternal Republic of Honduras.

The Nicaraguan mothers demand the solidarity of the Honduran Government. They condemn the Coco River massacre. We shall triumph in our crusade.

This communique was also sent to all the embassies in Nicaragua.

MEDIA BLAMED FOR CREATING SUGAR SHORTAGE

PA081613 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Aug 80

[Commentary by Wilfredo Lopez: "Finger on the Sore"]

[Excerpt] It has been said that in addition to the war, which forced a drop in production, and the maneuvers of certain private producers, the artificial sugar crisis was created by the confusing and misleading reports of some of the media.

Tonight, we wish to put a finger on this sore, an old and fetid sore that needs to be cauterized.

It is unnecessary to point out that the media exerts influence on a nation's frame of mind, but we must repeat it lest we forget this elemental truth.

So, if to the negative factors which contributed to low sugar production we add whimsical reports from the media that is in the hands of persons who want to sow confusion and to create situations that are unfavorable to the revolution in the minds of the people, the result is an artificial shortage with all the harmful effects upon which the counterrevolution capitalizes.

The food market is especially sensitive and unless pressure is avoided, its stability can be jolted in a matter of hours, particularly if somebody is interested in doing so.

A simple rumor that is started in a neighborhood can become the cause of an artificial shortage as has occurred in the case of sugar, especially if marketing is in private hands and is susceptible to hoarding, speculation and other forms of manipulation. An ill-intended rumor is enough. Let us consider, however, the harmful effects of a report over a radio station with nationwide coverage or in a newspaper that publishes reports on shortages that are more imaginary than real.

What is the result? It is the creation of a true shortage of oil or of sugar since the first thing a citizen would do, especially if he has the

money, would be to buy so that he will not be without this product. If it is said that sugar is in short supply or is going to be within a few days, the thing to do would be to buy 1 or 2 or even 3 quintals. Thus, the rumor keeps spreading until it becomes a fact and begins to pressure the producer, who might not be an abundant supplier. By this time, even loan sharks have entered the picture and the result is true shortage. Everyone knows how loan sharks operate.

That is why we believe the measures taken to distribute sugar will help solve the problem, especially if we consider the participation of mass organizations.

We also hope that the press and radio people who speculate with speculation will reconsider their action because if they do not, they will have to face the courts, where they may end up if they continue their campaigns.

CSO: 3010

NEW LAND LAW TO MEET PEASANTS' DEMANDS FOR LAND

PA081554 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Aug 80 p 3

[Excerpt] Revolution and Efficiency

The main argument of those who criticize land expropriations is that we do not have the technical and human resources to make larger amounts of land produce. They argue that efforts should be oriented toward farms already in production regardless of their methods of operation, productivity or size.

These sectors overlook the conditions that led to the monopolization [concentracion] of land and the neglect and exploitation of peasants as a labor force. The revolution, which drew great strength from the poor peasants during the most difficult days of its struggle against the dictatorship, feels that responding to the demand for land means correcting an injustice that has held peasants in poverty for centuries.

During the interview with Poder Sandinista, Commander [of the Revolution Jaime], Wheelock introduced a new concept of efficiency saying that "efficiency must be social in nature. If, in an effort to obtain surpluses we forget the salaries, the workers' social benefits and the unemployment problems caused by agricultural activities for export purposes, we will be transferring to society an element of instability which represents the cost of social inefficiency."

Thus, the expropriation of idle lands becomes a step to correct an injustice that has dragged on throughout our history, guaranteeing the peasants an opportunity to join the revolution fully, "not as a salaried farmworker but as direct producers of social wealth."

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

CUBAN AID, U.S. DISCUSSED--Jinotega--The students from Jinotega who are on the Isle of Youth, Cuba, on scholarships issued a political communique on the 27th anniversary on 26 July of the attack on the Moncada barracks. During an internationalist solidarity event the 18 young students gave a brief historic report on the significance to the Cuban revolutionary people of that date and also condemned the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba. In their communique they mention SR-71 espionage flights over socialist Cuba, the occupation of Cuban territory by U.S. military personnel at Guantanamo Naval Base, imperialist propaganda and CIA intervention against Cuba's revolutionary process. On the other hand, they praised the Cuban authorities' decision to allow the antisocials to leave the country and the march of the struggling people in support of the revolutionary government. Finally, they thanked the Cuban people for their generosity and the unselfish aid given to Nicaragua before and after the victory. They also urged teachers from the people's literacy army to double their efforts for the final offensive. [Text] [PA090425 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Aug 80 p 9]

CSO: 3010

'LA PRENSA' CIRCULATION HALTED

PA081925 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Aug 80 p 8

[Article by Ruben Carlos G.: "Fear of Expression..."]

[Text] LA PRENSA has begun circulation. When its brothers QUIUBO and LA OPINION tried to circulate they were banned and destroyed by the military dictatorship. Their brothers, four radio newsmen who were spokesmen for independent public opinion, were gagged several months ago. In 1976, 14 Panamanian citizens, their brothers, were violently banished because they dared point out some of the blunders, mistakes, abuses and corruption of the military dictatorship. All this happened even though Panama's constitution expressly prohibits banishment and even though Gen Omar Torrijos, when he was in power, used to say "tell me about the bad because I already know about the good." May God and the people protect LA PRENSA.

The foregoing and many other actions have been possible because we have had no freedom of expression in Panama since 1968. Most people were afraid of a government that was oppressive, violent and arbitrary. It is precisely to remedy the absence of independent news media that the newspaper LA PRENSA has been founded. It will be a free forum to defend democracy and criticize corruption, inefficiency, injustice and abuse of power without fear or subservience.

Most of the fatal consequences the military dictatorship has brought to all Panamanian sectors have been linked to the absence of truly independent news media. The control of the media by the government has resulted in misinformation, deceit and flattery. The media has also been used to promote and teach leftist ideas at all Panamanian levels.

The absence of a free press has made possible the signing of treaties which run counter to Panama's interests, a huge amount of public borrowing, the squandering of the nation's funds, the growing state takeover of the country's economy, the distortion of democracy, the politization of education, the symbiosis of the armed forces and the official political party, rule by personal whim instead of laws, international adventurism, debasement of justice, nepotism and political paternalism.

How many things have happened in Panama in the last 12 years because the dictatorship was not faced with a well-informed public opinion capable of criticizing the actions of its rulers?

We welcome LA PRENSA. Let it fill this great void in Panama's life. Let the founding of this newspaper signal the beginning of a new stage of rehabilitation in Panama's political life and civic activity. May LA PRENSA become a luminous beacon so that truth will be known and justice will prevail. Let law prevail over the military boot and may we all live again free of fear, impositions and abuse. May this newspaper be used to report and orient freely and not to applaud and confuse because of fear or self-interest. May decisions which are of interest to Panamanians be viewed and discussed on their merits, upholding the good of Panamanians as the ultimate goal.

Let LA PRENSA criticize what is wrong and applaud what is right. This would justify the efforts of a large number of Panamanians who, we are sure, see the country's progress with liberty and justice as their goal. Through tolerance and respect for the rights of others we will have to recognize what is bad and good. We will be free and great as a nation only through patriotic devotion, faith in democracy and allegiance to truth and justice.

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

SALT PRODUCTION--Basseterre, St. Kitts, Thursday (CANA)--St. Kitts-Nevis Finance Minister Simeon Daniel has held talks in the United States about reviving salt production here, the premier's office has announced. Mr. Daniel held talks with officials in Salt Lake City, Utah in the U.S. who are interested in using modern equipment to restart the production of salt. The southeastern peninsula of St. Kitts has vast reserves of salt, but production stopped more than 20 years ago when primitive methods were still in use. [Text] [FLO62020 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Aug 80 p 3]

CSO: 3020

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

GUERRILLA RESURGENCE DENIED--Caracas, 5 Aug (LATIN)--Venezuelan Interior Minister Rafael Andres Montes de Oca denied today the possibility of renewed guerrilla activity in Venezuela. Montes de Oca assured the press that the army has absolute control of the country's eastern area, where according to unofficial reports alleged guerrillas had attacked a military convoy on Friday, wounding two soldiers. Nevertheless, Montes de Oca said that "the groups which have been located have existed for a long time and have rejected President Herrera's peace policy" through which they were invited to rejoin the country's democratic system when the present administration took office in 1979. Montes de Oca said that as the government allows the reincorporation of those who have strayed from the democratic system, "it has to pursue subversive outbreaks wherever they may appear." The minister said no new guerrilla groups have appeared in Venezuela and that "there is no reason for them to appear, but if they do, we will fight them." [Text] [PA052346 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1524 GMT 5 Aug 80]

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT--Caracas, 28 Jul (EFE)--Finance Minister Luis Ugueto today reported that Venezuela will receive a \$1.8 billion credit from an international consortium of banks. The credit will be signed Friday in London and will be used to cover the debts of public enterprises and autonomous institutes. The city pool consortium granted Venezuela 7 years to pay the credit, with variable interest depending on the rate in the international market. [PA092142 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0423 GMT 29 Jul 80]

CREDIT FOR NICARAGUA--Caracas, 8 Aug (LATIN)--The Foreign Trade Institute today reported that Venezuela has granted Nicaragua a \$1 million line of credit for the purchase of nontraditional Venezuelan products. The agreement was signed yesterday by the Venezuelan Central Bank, the fund for financing of exports and the Nicaraguan Central Bank. [PA092142 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0250 GMT 9 Aug 80]

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